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Church could change rules on celibacy, say Catholic leaders



By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Roman Catholic Church's ruling that priests must be celibate could be relaxed, Cardinal Basil Hume, the spiritual leader of the 4.4 million Catholics in England and Wales, said yesterday.

He was backed immediately by another senior bishop, the Right Rev Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton, who said it was only a matter of time before the question of the ordination of married priests came up in Rome. While insisting that there were still good reasons for keeping celibacy in place, Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, said many "excellent" people were being lost to the Church because they wanted to be married.

As expected, the Vatican stood firm on celibacy for priests and nuns, despite increasing demands from the Western Church that the subject should at least be opened for debate at the highest levels. A Vatican spokesman said the Pope "insists on mandatory celibacy in the Latin Church. He does not want to change the rules". Church leaders in Britain are anxious not to be seen as responding to the resignation of the Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, the Rev Roderick Wright, who is believed to be in hiding with Kathleen Macphie, a divorced mother-of-three.

But while change might be years away, and is unlikely under the present Papacy, the loss of Bishop Wright to the church has reignited the debate, in this country at least. Asked about the celibacy laws on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, Cardinal Hume said: "It is not divine law. It is Church law, so any Pope or General Council could change it." He said the impact of the rule and any change on other cultures must be carefully considered. The celibacy debate was at present being conducted very much in western Europe and north America. "But the Catholic Church has to take a worldwide view."

He said there were practical reasons for a celibate priesthood. "Many of us would find it very hard to give all our energy and our time to our ministry and to give good quality time to our families." But the most important aspect was that Christ was celibate. "I have tried through my life to try to explore in prayer what this means. Our society is very preoccupied with sex. It is not a bad thing to have people who can witness to love without sex."

Bishop Murphy-O'Connor, Chairman of the Catholic Committee for Christian Unity, said the ordination of married men was likely to be considered in future "by the bishops in communion with the Pope". He said: "This is a discipline and the church could change it." But, like Cardinal Hume, he also spoke strongly in favour of celibacy. Cardinal Thomas Winning, of Glasgow, said that Bishop Wright could remain a priest if he gave up any sexual relationship he might have had. The leader of Scotland's 750,000 Roman Catholics said he believed, from the bishop's reaction at a meeting with him on Sunday, that this was the option Bishop Wright would prefer. But the Cardinal insisted that the case made no difference to the strict rules of celibacy.

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Battle looms over public workers' pay

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JILL SHERMAN

A CONFRONTATION between unions and the Government is likely next year — after Kenneth Clarke's announcement yesterday that he was freezing the public sector pay bill for a fourth year.

Borrowing hit £4.5 bn in August

The Government was forced to borrow £4.5 billion in August, more than the City had expected, amid signs that tight control of public spending is beginning to slip. This disappointing news on public finances coincided with a call from the British Chambers of Commerce to avoid tax cuts in the November Budget while the level of borrowing remains so high. Page 23

Mr Clarke is also seeking to cut next year's total public spending target of £298 billion by up to £5 billion to finance tax cuts and reduce government borrowing. Social security, transport, defence and local government are the most vulnerable departments, while health and education are likely to be protected.

The Cabinet's EDX spending committee has already started discussing how the money should be distributed, and the Chancellor is putting pressure on spending ministers by requiring them to make their case to the full committee rather than in private meetings with the Chief Secretary.

Mr Clarke underlined his determination to contain public spending in his evidence to the pay review bodies, in which he said there was no upward pressure on the pay in the economy yesterday and called for "realistic and affordable" settlements.

But his remarks brought immediate threats of industrial action from the unions. Barry Reamsbottom, general secretary of the CPSE, the biggest civil service union, said: "Mr Clarke's wallet is bulging with the 26 per cent pay increase that MPs awarded themselves only three months ago, yet he is intent on forcing civil servants who have met all the targets set by this Government to swallow a pay freeze for a further year. It is breathtaking double standards and the electorate will see through it."

John Monks, the TUC general secretary, accused the Chancellor of playing politics with public sector pay. "Kenneth Clarke is hitting nurses, teachers and other crucial public sector workers in the wallet to give him enough money to buy votes with tax cuts in the run-up to the general election."

This cynical ploy is announced on the same day we discover that far too many directors are giving themselves pay rises over four times the rate of inflation."

Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison, said: "Yet again we have the hypocritical spectacle of one law for the rich and another for the poor. This latter-day Sheriff of Nottingham wants to take from the poorly-paid public sector worker to throw pre-election tax bribes at the rich."

"Public sector workers care for the sick, the elderly, our children. They clean up our streets, they deliver the services which are the hallmark of a civilised society and yet they are treated with contempt by the Government."

Roger Kline, of the MSF union, said: "This is grossly unfair treatment, and we put on record now that balloting on industrial action is bound to take place if staff are not properly rewarded this time."



An overjoyed Phil Halden is reunited with his wife, Dolores

British captive was 'taunted' by gun-carrying children

By JOANNA BALE AND DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

A BRITISH engineer freed after being held hostage by Colombian guerrillas for seven months told yesterday how he was taunted by gun-carrying captors as young as 14.

Philip Halden, 48, who was seized in Colombia in February, a month after arriving in the country to work, returned to his Staffordshire home on Monday night where he is recovering with his wife, Dolores, and four children.

Joy at his release was marred by accusations that his employers had paid a ransom of more than \$1 million (£657,000), endangering other foreign workers.

Mr Halden, of Blythe Bridge, Stoke-on-Trent, had been working for a Danish company commissioning a concrete factory in a mountainous region when he, a

German and a Danish colleague were kidnapped at a makeshift roadblock by National Liberation Army left-wing guerrillas.

Looking pale and gaunt, he said: "We were told to get out of the car and get away from the road as quickly as possible. They did not say we were being kidnapped, only that they wanted to speak to us." But he and the other men were then forced to march for five or six days into the deep jungle by the guerrillas, all armed with Kalashnikovs and M16 assault rifles.

The three were kept in a shack for a month before he was taken further into the jungle with a group of 15 guerrillas.

Describing his captors, Mr Halden said many were children aged 14 and 15.

"There was one that I called Rambo and another Chuck Norris. They would show off and try to give the appearance of being very brave, but they were children who should have been in school. I saw them change over the months as they went from children to adults before their time."

Mr Halden said that although he was not physically ill-treated, he was warned he would be injured or killed if he tried to escape. "They didn't want to kill me because they wanted money. I was a commodity. I was treated no better or worse than if they had a cow or pig. They led me and kept me dry and tried to keep me quiet."

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"Daddy wants to put up your pocket-money but he has to do what the Chancellor says"

Meldrew won't believe what America has done to him

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A SANITISED, scrubbed version of Victor Meldrew, the angry man of British comedy, was introduced to American television viewers this week. After a rewrite the bald, scratchy, white Victor has become Hilton, an airline worker who is black, wears a cap, and comes across as an amiable buffoon rather than as the boiling vat of middle-aged, suburban frustration that is the splenic Meldrew.

Rights to the BBC's hit show *One*

Foot in the Grave were bought by the CBS network as a vehicle for the veteran star Bill Cosby. Having spent the money, American television chiefs set about ruining the product. One of the first things to go was the title and the jaunty Chas 'n' Dave theme music. The show is now called *Cosby* and there is a new, softer-edged tune. It is not one to whistle along to.

The first episode of the show, which has been hailed as a major event, started promisingly. Cosby and his wife were in bed, Meldrew-style, with him keeping her awake and she being

a pillar of patience. It was one of the few things that smacked of the original.

Advance publicity stills showed Cosby and his much younger co-star Phylicia Rashad as an almost glamorous, soft-focus couple, quite unlike the BBC's snapshots of the warring Meldreows, caught in a moment of truce in their kitchen. Whereas Victor has a gaily gait and spits out his words, Hilton lopes around with a balmily blamelessness and speaks in a languid manner. There was no sign of the catchphrase "I don't believe it".

Instead, Hilton asks his neighbour repeatedly: "Do you love me?" Indeed, the cutting edge of the comedy was left on the cutting room floor, and apart from a small-print credit at the end of the show that *Cosby* was based on a BBC original, it was impossible to tell that they came from the same source.

Men Behaving Badly will soon be re-regurgitated for US viewers, minus all the more risqué parts — which, arguably, make the programme such a success in Britain. And there will be no mention of bottoms, bodily functions or girl-chasing.

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Labour plans housing estate snoop squads

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

PROFESSIONAL snoops would gather information and give evidence against "neighbours from hell" under Labour Party plans to clamp down on antisocial behaviour on housing estates.

The professionals would spy on nuisance families by moving into property on estates or tour the streets to gather information for court proceedings. Parents of troublesome children could also face parental responsibility orders requiring them to attend counselling sessions aimed at helping them cope with persistent juvenile troublemakers.

But the plans were condemned by civil liberties groups who accused Labour of a fundamental shift away

from the accused and in favour of the accuser. Labour's plan to use professional witnesses would mean that victims would not have to give evidence in court and risk further harassment.

The party also hopes that extending the use of professional witnesses will overcome widespread intimidation that prevents people bringing complaints about neighbours who make life unbearable on many estates.

In the document, *Protecting our Communities*, Labour said the professional witness might "move into a flat or house on a temporary basis to log round the clock evidence of harassment or intimidation". Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said that Labour's plans would "provide much needed relief for the

thousands of victims whose lives are being made hell in their own homes". He said that for too many people, noise, harassment and intimidation were part of their daily existence. "Thousands of people have to put with this kind of behaviour. It cannot be allowed to go on."

Mr Straw also plans neighbourhood nuisance squads comprising environmental, housing and social services officials, who would attempt to resolve disputes before resorting to legal action.

If they fail, a senior police officer of local authority chief executive would be able to take out a community service order in the civil courts to restrain nuisance neighbours. The court would only have to be satisfied "on the balance of probabilities" that the behaviour was causing a nuisance before granting an order. Any breach of the order would be a criminal offence liable to jail sentences of up to four years. The tough proposals are part of the struggle between the Conservatives and Labour over law and order in the run up to the general election.

Mr Straw said that antisocial behaviour in some neighbourhoods was undermining some communities and that both the civil and criminal law needed to be used to deal with the problem. He denied that Labour's plans were disproportionate to the scale of the problem in some urban areas.

But civil liberties groups condemned the new community service order and warned that it damaged the presumption of innocence. John Wadham, director of the

civil rights group, Liberty, said: "Labour's proposals for a CSO blur the boundaries between civil and criminal law, damaging the principle of the presumption of innocence."

"In order to convict people of criminal offences there must be more resources to prosecute rather than taking away people's rights to a fair trial."

Simon Farrell, a barrister who works for Liberty, said the measures could breach the European Convention on Human Rights and added: "The present proposals of the Labour Party are draconian. They represent a fundamental shift from the basic civil liberties enshrined in our criminal law away from protection of someone who is accused of a crime and very much in favour of the accuser."

Residents blame MoD as sale of US base collapses

By Ian Murray, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

A MULTIMILLION-POUND deal to turn a disused American airbase into a 1,000-acre leisure park has fallen through at the last minute, angering local residents who say the Ministry of Defence wants too high a price.

The Bentwaters base, near Woodbridge, Suffolk, has been empty since the 31st Wing of the USAF left in 1992. The Ministry, which inherited the airstrip plus a hospital, gym, supermarket, three housing estates, burger bar, cinema, hangars and workshops, has been under Treasury orders to dispose of the lot for as much as possible.

The houses have been sold off — some to a property company now in the hands of the receivers — but the rest of the site remains on the market.

"The obligation to sell to the highest bidder sounds like the worst form of asset stripping," said Sir Michael Bunbury, chairman of the parish council at Rendlesham, which covers most of the base.

Sir Michael said he contacted John Guttery, the Environment Secretary and local MP, who told him that there was no way of overriding the Treasury instructions.

"The British taxpayer did not pay to build all these facilities and it is not reasonable to say we must have the

last shilling back from the sale," Sir Michael said. "We believe that, as part of the Government, the MoD has a duty to the public which goes beyond getting the best price. There are a considerable number of people living in the area who came in the belief there would be some kind of economic regeneration after the base closed... I represent these forgotten people and I have every sympathy with them. Their lives are being ruined because the MoD is being greedy."

The Defence Ministry said that it had been urgently trying to find a buyer. A year ago the Chris Parker Group, of Northamptonshire, put in a bid to create a string of water sports lakes, build 550 chalets and provide leisure facilities. To ensure planning approval, a school, playing fields and community centre for residents in the housing estate on the base were also included.

Last week the group failed to complete the deal, said to be worth £16 million, and the Ministry is holding talks with Suffolk Coastal District Council about suitable uses for the base before relaunching a marketing campaign to sell it.

The MoD said: "We really believed we had got rid of it this time and are very disappointed that the deal fell through."



Martin: remanded
Body flown home after Bondi death

FROM ROGER MAYNARD
IN SYDNEY

THE body of the British tourist Brian Hagland was due to be flown home from Australia last night as the man accused of murdering him was remanded in custody in Sydney.

Mr Hagland's girlfriend, Connie Casey, 24, who was with him when he died at Bondi Beach 11 days ago, was on the same flight. She said that she still could not believe he was dead.

A few hours earlier, Aaron Martin, 22, an unemployed storeman, sobbed in court as a magistrate remanded him until November 1. He has told police that Mr Hagland, 28, was run over by a bus, but detectives say two post-mortem examinations show that he was attacked.



Jan Martin, mother of the accused man, and her daughter, Devina, outside court

Make shoplifters pay, say the stores

By Richard Ford, HOME CORRESPONDENT

SHOPLIFTERS should be forced to pay compensation to stores in an attempt to cut the £1.5 billion a year cost of their thefts, a retail report suggested yesterday.

Imposing financial penalties on shoplifters would also act as a deterrent to many who are not prosecuted in the courts or receive only small fines. The report by the Nene Centre for Retail Research called for the introduction of a system of civil recovery, used in the United States and Canada, in which shoplifters pay cash to retailers in cheap out-of-court actions.

Retailers favour this because several fear that existing criminal penalties no longer act as a deterrent, although civil recovery could be taken against a thief as well as

criminal proceedings. Under civil recovery a person caught shoplifting is served with a notice outlining how much the retailer is demanding. Only in cases where the suspect refuses to pay would there be argument in the courts.

The report outlines a scheme that would involve compensation of up to three times the value of the goods stolen, plus damages of £100 to £250, and fees of about £90 a case.

According to the report, out of 1.7 million people caught by retailers for alleged shoplifting in 1994-95, fewer than 150,000 were found guilty in the courts or cautioned by the police for theft. About 4,000 of them received terms of imprisonment.

Cattle cull

Continued from page 1
phased lifting of the embargo, imposed last March, would be worthless if Britain backed away from its side of the bargain. "This is a pre-condition before any specific steps can be taken," Herr Fischer said.

Along with farm ministers, he voiced concern over what he said was the failure of Britain to start killing the cattle targeted in the selective slaughter scheme. The targeted animals, estimated at between 127,000 and 150,000, are beyond the half million already destroyed. Several ministers voiced amazement that Mr Hogg had presented no specific plan when calling for a reduction of the selective cull.

Paul Tyler, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, said of the plan for the full-scale cull: "Unless Mr Hogg has come back with an absolute bankable guarantee that... if we go ahead with the cull we can have a timetable for the end of the ban, I can't see it going through the House of Commons. Most of us from farming areas would find it extremely difficult to support a totally worthless sacrifice of healthy cows to no end, to no purpose."

Briton 'guarded by children'

Continued from page 1
of them they would kill me or if I tried to escape they would break my legs. They are not nice people and you don't argue with people with Kalashnikovs."

He said the mental strain was the hardest aspect to bear. "I received letters from my family through the Red Cross but they didn't give them all to me. They held on to the correspondence and gave me photos of my children which had been damaged."

His daily routine involved waking at 5am when dawn broke and listening to the BBC on a radio before eating breakfast of rice and tinned sardines. He would go to a nearby river for a bath before returning for a lunch of similar food, then listen to the radio again. He had only one book. He read it four times.

Mr Halden said his religion had helped him through his ordeal, together with the knowledge that his family would be doing everything possible to secure his release. When he was told he was being freed, he did not know whether to believe his captors. "They had told me I would be released before and I hadn't been. That was cruel and I will

NEWS IN BRIEF

US firm wins deal to computerise courts

The courts system in England and Wales is to be computerised under a £20 million contract awarded to an American multinational company under the Government's private finance initiative. By the end of next year Electronic Data Systems, which has a base in Uxbridge and headquarters in Texas, will replace the paper-based system used in all 235 county courts in England and Wales.

The company will also take over the computerised listing and management programme already running in the criminal courts, as well as the computerised summons production centre and the county court "bulk" debt centre. Computerisation was recommended by Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, as essential to creating better access to justice in his recent report on the civil courts. He wants judges to become trial managers, controlling the pace of cases and setting timetables, reforms which need underpinning by the latest technology. The venture is the first time the private finance initiative has been used in the courts sector.

Post ballot splits union

Postal workers' leaders are expected today to refuse a fresh ballot in the Royal Mail dispute and to go ahead with further strikes on Friday and Monday. That would prompt a three-month suspension of the Post Office's monopoly on delivering letters for less than £1. Local union officials who met in London yesterday, were said to be evenly divided on whether to hold a ballot. Though the union's regional offices are in favour, big union concentrations in areas like Liverpool and Manchester are against. The private delivery firm TNT confirmed yesterday that it intended to run a trial rival letter service in the Midlands.

Britons die in LA crash

Two British tourists have been killed in Los Angeles after being hit by a car that mounted the curb. James Martin, 62, and his wife Margaret, 59, from Glasgow, were walking near a popular yacht haven in the Marina del Rey area when a car pulled out of a queue waiting at a red light and flattened a fire hydrant before striking the couple, killing them instantly. The driver, Fred Alexander, 79, and his 80-year-old wife, a passenger, were slightly hurt in the incident on Monday and were released from hospital yesterday.

MP returned to fold

Richard Spring, the Tory MP who resigned last year as a ministerial aide because of allegations about his sex life, has been given a government job. The MP for Bury St Edmunds has been appointed parliamentary private secretary to the Armed Forces Minister and the Defence Procurement Minister. John Major personally approved the appointment. Mr Spring, 48, had quit after a newspaper published details of an alleged *ménage à trois* with a Sunday school teacher and a businessman.

Boy wanderer is off again

Peter Kerry, the 15-year-old boy who ran away to Malaysia using his father's passport and credit card last year, has disappeared again. This time his parents think he is heading for Europe and the police have alerted all ports. Peter, who now has his own passport, was last seen when he set out on his north London paper round on Sunday morning. His parents said they had done everything in their power to satisfy his wanderlust and since the Malaysia jaunt, he had been to Spain three times, France twice and Poland once.

Attacker goes free

An amateur boxing trainer who attacked a man with a baseball bat, because he believed he was supplying drugs to his son, was freed yesterday. Judge Neligan told Charlie Rumbol Sr that he had taken the law into his own hands "in totally the wrong manner but for the best of motives". Rumbol was sentenced to 18 months' jail, suspended for two years, by Maidstone Crown Court. He was cleared of grievous bodily harm with intent, which he denied, and convicted of grievous bodily harm.


Loch party student dies

A university student who vanished during a late-night party on an island in a loch was found dead in the water by his brother the next morning. Neil MacLean, 21, had been drinking with friends on Bishop's Island in Loch Leven, near Fort William. It is believed the media studies student had wandered off from the Friday night party and then slipped and fallen to his death from cliffs that reach 100ft. His brother James, 29, of Onich, near Fort William said: "Nobody even noticed Neil leaving the group."

Scientology goes on air

The Church of Scientology presented its first British television advertising campaign yesterday with a denial that it was trying to brainwash viewers. The 60-second commercial will begin today on the UK Gold and UK Living channels and will be broadcast three to five times a day for a month. In three months it hopes to run the advertisement on Channel 4 and ITV. Heber Jentzsch, the church's president, said: "People can make up their own minds. If you are brainwashed in 60 seconds, then wash your brain."

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THE TIMES
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shotgun
to school

Crazy Gang
rebuke to

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Woman detective wins payout for sex harassment

By PAUL WILKINSON

A WOMAN detective has been given a six-figure compensation payment after her promising career was blighted by sexual harassment from male colleagues.

The sum paid to Libby Ashurst, 27, a former WPC with North Yorkshire Police, is one of two out-of-court settlements made by the force to avoid embarrassing details becoming public at industrial tribunals. In the second case former WPC Amanda Rose, who was on secondment to the same CID at Harrogate, is understood to have received around £10,000.

The allegations made by the two women led to a two-year internal investigation in Harrogate which uncovered incidents of bullying, bizarre initiation rites for new officers and a catalogue of sexual harassment. They included a detective constable being locked in the station dog kennels for three hours for refusing to apologise for wearing the wrong kind of tie, a detective sergeant stripping naked in his office and wearing a lost property label on his penis, male recruits being forced to run the length of a corridor with bulldog clips on their nipples and a joke dog mess being put in a senior officer's desk drawer.

A chief inspector, a sergeant and several other officers have since been disciplined. They were either fined, transferred or both.

Most of the incidents happened four years ago and only came to light after a complaint from one of the women officers about a detective sergeant. He was alleged to have suggested that the two women wear more seductive clothing, such as stockings. The women also complained about always being given the worst jobs and

suffering a barrage of sexist and deprecatory remarks.

Miss Ashurst's father, Terry, Principal of Doncaster Further Education College, has called for a public investigation. He said the episode had left his daughter highly traumatised. "I do not believe the Chief Constable's statement that none of the hierarchy was involved."

"I believe the culture is pervasive of sexual harassment and bullying and I cannot accept that senior officers are so lacking in knowledge of what is going on at the various levels within the force. If they don't know, there is even more wrong with the force than one might believe already."

This summer two officers at Harrogate were transferred to other stations after a disciplinary hearing before two chief constables, Richard Wells of South Yorkshire Police and Tony Leonard of Humberside Police.

Mr Ashurst said his daughter had signed an agreement not to talk about the case. He added: "Her career effectively

is destroyed. She has a number of commendations from the force, including one for bravery after she disarmed a man in a hostage situation."

Miss Ashurst's mother Barbara, a teacher at a junior school in York, said: "She seemed perfectly happy when she was on the beat, but things changed when she was promoted into the CID and now she is very nervous. I haven't discussed with her what went wrong because it only upsets her too much."

Tony Lidgate, press officer for North Yorkshire Police, said: "The Chief Constable, David Burke, has apologised to Miss Ashurst for the treatment she received. He has said this was an isolated incident which departs radically from the very high standards of North Yorkshire Police. The force will strive to ensure similar circumstances do not arise again."

"As a result of a number of incidents some years ago, a chief inspector has appeared before a disciplinary hearing. Five out of eight charges were proved against him and he was fined." It is understood that while none of the officers involved has been returned to uniform, most have been sent to stations in rural parts of the county.

One serving officer said the incidents had begun as innocent horseplay, but had got out of hand. The officer put in the dog kennels was apparently being punished for not falling in with his colleagues who all decided to wear loud ties for work. When he refused he was issued with a mobile phone and told not to come out until he rang with an apology.

Angela Harris, chairwoman of North Yorkshire police committee, declined to comment on the case.



Burke: he apologised for Miss Ashurst's treatment

Boy took shotgun to school

By RICHARD DUCE

A BOY aged 12 smuggled a sawn-off shotgun into school after inscribing the names of fellow pupils on cartridges as part of a planned revenge attack.

The boy thought that other children had "grassed" on him when teachers accused him of stealing computer equipment. The next day he took his father's shotgun from its cabinet, shortened the barrel with a hacksaw and set off for school on the bus.

When he arrived at school in northwest Scotland he told friends, to whom he had already mentioned revenge: "It's today." Police were called when he put the gun under his own chin and threatened to shoot himself.

At Edinburgh High Court yesterday the boy admitted possessing the gun in May with intent to cause others to believe that he would use unlawful violence. He also admitted carrying an airgun, ammunition and two knives to school on the same day.

The case was adjourned pending the preparation of reports. The boy was ordered to stay at a secure school.

Security blunders aided IRA escape

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A PRISON officer was shot in the stomach as five IRA terrorists and an armed robber exploited security weaknesses to break out of a maximum security jail, a jury was told yesterday.

John Kettleborough was the first officer at Whitemoor jail in Cambridgeshire to try to stop the escape two years ago. He saw a hole had been cut through the inner fence of a special secure unit and ran towards the escapees.

Suddenly he felt as though he had been kicked in the ribs. A ricocheting bullet had struck him. He staggered for safety and other officers dived for cover. Woolwich Crown Court was told.

The prisoners had managed to obtain two automatic handguns. They used ropes made of knotted bedsheets and smuggled cutting equipment to cut through two wire fences and scaled a 30ft concrete wall.

Prison officers were so surprised by the breakout that they did not switch on security cameras until four minutes after warning sirens sounded. One inmate was caught within

minutes but it took nearly two hours before all six were back behind bars.

Paul Magee, 48; Liam McCotter, 33; Gilbert McNamee, 36; Liam O'Duibhir, 34; Peter Sherry, 31, and non-IRA prisoner Andrew Russell, 34, deny trying to escape and firearms charges. Magee denies an additional charge of assault occasioning grievous bodily harm on the prison guard.

David Walters, for the prosecution, told the court the escape and its preparation were facilitated by "an over-readiness, perhaps, to agree to prisoners' wishes and demands". He said it was an attitude which "undoubtedly allowed the defendants to acquire items and prepare equipment without being discovered".

The court heard the attempt was aided because the motor of a mobile camera had been switched off after one prisoner complained about the lack of privacy. The escapees took full advantage of the resulting "blindspot" next to the perimeter fence.

The trial continues.

Crazy Gang issues stinging rebuke to 'jellyfish' Lineker

By ROBIN YOUNG

FOOTBALL'S notorious hardman, Vinnie Jones, and his Wimbledon team-mates launched a stinging counter-attack on football's "Mr Nice Guy", Gary Lineker, yesterday. They called the former England captain a loser and "as wet as a jellyfish".

The remarks were provoked by strong comments that Lineker made about Jones, Paul Gascoigne and the Manchester United manager, Alex Ferguson. Lineker told *Radio Times* that Jones was a "self-hyped personality" who "isn't a good player" and was "no benefit to the game". He had previously said that the only way to watch Wimbledon, much criticised for their robust style of play, was on Teletext.

He described Ferguson as "a strange bloke, irritated by everyone, I think". Of Gascoigne, the England star now playing for Glasgow Rangers, Lineker said: "Gazza has an in-built, self-destruct button, like a naughty schoolboy. When you talk to him, it goes



Lineker, left, is accused by Jones of being a wimp

in one ear and out the other. You can't change him.

Wimbledon, whose players are known as the Crazy Gang, issued a statement signed by the whole team yesterday, decorated with pictures of jellyfish. The statement said that Lineker, who is introducing BBC's *Match of the Day* for a month while Desmond Lynum is on holiday, was trying to beef up his image.

It read: "In his typical selfish way, Lineker is trying to promote himself as a strong man with strong opinions. But it can never happen. He will always be perceived as a wimp. Lineker has the charisma of a jellyfish — and is just

as wet. He is a jellyfish without a sting and, in a war, he would have been the first to line up — behind Vinnie Jones — and the first to run for cover. The men he has attacked are all winners by nature and deed and he clearly envies them for one thing he will never have — a personality."

The Wimbledon team said the 35-year-old former Barcelona, Tottenham, Everton and Leicester striker was abusing his position at the BBC by smearing fellow professionals such as Jones, the Wimbledon captain.

Lineker's agent, Jon Holmes, said that Lineker would not be commenting on the latest attack. But he joked: "The accusation that Vinnie indulges in hype is obviously misplaced."

Lineker's criticism of Jones reopened a three-year war of words between them. It included a confrontation last year when the Welsh international midfielder threw a piece of toast at Lineker in a Dublin hotel and taunted him with cries of "big ears".



Margaret Bent crying on the shoulder of her mother after the verdicts. The judge said that emotional distress did not amount to harm in law

'Stalker' cleared of causing harm

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A YOUNG woman wept yesterday as the man she accused of stalking her for four years walked free from court.

After a week-long trial during which he defended himself, Dennis Chambers, 37, a van driver of no fixed address, was found not guilty of affray and causing grievous bodily harm to Margaret Bent, 29. As she was comforted by friends outside court, Miss Bent called for a change in the law and said she felt she

had endured a "real ordeal". She was cross-examined by Chambers in the witness box as part of his defence.

Miss Bent, who has managed a fast food café in Brixton for 11 years, said she did not feel she would be able to return to her job. She had told Judge Quentin Campbell that Chambers followed her and repeatedly called to see her after becoming obsessed early in 1992.

Anthony Fogg, for the prosecution, had told the jury of eight women and four men at Inner London Crown Court that

stalking was not an offence in law, but the Crown's case was that the cumulative effect of the stress caused by Chambers amounted to serious psychological harm.

The judge said that the jury had to consider whether Miss Bent had suffered serious psychiatric damage. "You might think she suffered annoyance, panic and emotional distress. That alone would not be sufficient."

Chambers has two previous convictions for affray relating to Miss Bent, for which he received non-custodial sentences.



Chambers: court role

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RESEARCH

Vatican insists celibacy rule is unchangeable as liberal pressure grows

Single devotion that has driven away thousands

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Vatican stood firm on celibacy for priests and nuns yesterday despite Cardinal Hume's apparent call for flexibility. A Vatican spokesman said the Pope "insists on mandatory celibacy in the Latin Church. He does not want to change the rules."

But campaigners against the rule welcomed the debate opened up by the Bishop of Argyle case. Guido D'Altri, head of Vocatio, the organisation of Italian married priests, said 10,000 priests had left the Church over the past 20 years to get married. There are at present 40,000 priests serving in Italy.

A further 20,000 have left the Church in America for similar reasons in the past two decades. One senior figure who has hinted at the need for "flexibility" is Carlo Maria Martini, the Archbishop of Milan, who is seen as the liberal candidate to succeed John Paul II as Pope.

He has pleaded for tolerance on sexual issues and recently observed that, although celibacy would remain in force, "it may be possible for local adjustments to be made". He said he believed that celibacy would continue because of its spiritual values, but it was "not unthinkable" for the Church to adapt it.

In the United States, a survey of parish priests in *The New York Times* showed that 55 per cent believed they should be allowed to marry. There is also pressure created by former Protestant clergy who converted to Catholicism and are allowed to remain married. Nearly 100 American Catholic priests are married former Protestants. They argue that it is easier for them to advise couples.

A. W. Richard Sipe, author of *A Secret World: Sexuality and the Search for Celibacy* and a lecturer at Johns Hopkins University, said he had concluded after 30 years of research that only half of Catholic priests practised celibacy, and that the Church

turned a blind eye to "lapses". In the Third World priests with wives or mistresses are common: it is estimated that half of Filipino priests have wives or concubines, according to Corpus (the Corps of Reserved Priests United for Service), which speaks for resigned priests in the United States.

American Catholics were galvanised last year by *A Most Defiant Priest*, a book by Anthony Girandola, who resigned as a priest in Bridgeport, Connecticut, to marry and have children. He said:

"Why the Church continues to deny one of life's greatest joys and gifts to priests is beyond me." Father Girandola is planning a second book, *Fathers Should Get Married*.

Bert Peeters, former president of the International Federation of Married Priests, said: "In the early Church, marriage of priests, bishops and even Popes was not a problem. At the beginning of the 5th century married priests were asked not to have sexual relations with their wives before celebrating the Eucharist. It was not until a century later that it was tacitly forbidden for priests to have sexual relations at all."

The earliest canonical statement on celibacy was at the

4th-century Council of Elvira, but there were married priests with wives or mistresses until the 12th century. Partly in order to prevent priests passing Church property to offspring, celibacy was made compulsory for the Latin Church's priesthood by the second Lateran Council of 1139.

Concubinage was rife in the Church in periods after that, in particular in the 15th century. In the 16th century, celibacy was abolished in the Church of England, recognising the marriage of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer.

But since the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s, the debate has opened up, with opponents of celibacy arguing that Vatican II texts agreed that celibacy was not a dogma but a rule. After the council, some older married men were allowed to become deacons. Deacons assist at the liturgy but cannot celebrate the Eucharist or give absolution.

The present Pope insisted when he took over in 1978 that "dispensations" would no longer be permitted and that all priests must be faithful to their vows at all times. The priesthood was "an indissoluble matrimony with the Church". He said in 1992: "Virginity, chastity and celibacy retain their original meaning. They enable people to devote themselves to God with an undivided heart."

Dean Hoge, professor of sociology at Catholic University in Washington, said the number of young men becoming priests would quadruple if the ban on marriage were removed. Liberals say marriage would reduce the incidence of paedophilia and homosexuality in the clergy, and point out that several Popes in history fathered children, including the Borgia Pope, Alexander VI, who had at least four.

Nigel Lawson, page 17
Magnus Linklater, page 18
Leading article
and letters, page 19



Cardinal Martini: liberal candidate



Pope Alexander VI and courtiers celebrate his daughter Lucrezia Borgia's marriage

Open split in US hierarchy

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE celibacy of priests is one of a number of contentious issues of church doctrine that have recently provoked an open split in the Roman Catholic hierarchy in the United States.

The number of Catholic priests in the United States has fallen from 36,000 in 1965 to 33,000 and is projected to slip to 21,000 by 2005, with more than half of them over 55. The slump coincides with a boom in the Catholic popu-

lation of America which, fuelled by the immigration and high birth rates among Hispanics and Asians, has increased from 40 million in 1965 to 60 million now and to a projected 75 million in 2005.

At least partly due to the celibacy rule, would-be priests in America enter Catholic seminaries later in life. In 1965, 95 per cent were between 18 and 25. Now only 33 per cent are under 25, while 33 per cent are 26 to 31 and 33 per cent are older.

In an effort to bridge divisions, Cardinal Joseph

Bernardin of Chicago, who is dying of cancer, recently proposed a series of national conferences starting next spring to find "common ground" between Catholics. The initiative was based on a document by the National Pastoral Life Centre in New York, which called for discussion of such controversial topics as priestly celibacy, contraception, abortion and the ordination of women.

That paper caused a rare outburst of public criticism, however, by traditionalist Church leaders.

Vice-chancellors plan to charge £1,000 for tuition

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

SOME universities are considering charging at least £1,000 a year for tuition. Vice-chancellors meeting at Sheffield University are expected tomorrow to endorse plans to charge students for tuition from the end of the century.

But some universities have indicated that they cannot wait that long for new funds. Huddersfield University has contingency plans to introduce fees of £1,000 next year and the London School of Economics is also to discuss the introduction of fees.

Other universities are expected to make similar moves if November's Budget does not

bring relief to higher education. Birmingham University is one to have considered charging fees of at least £1,000.

A submission to the Government's review of higher education will also recommend abolishing grants to help raise an extra £6 billion a year for higher education.

Alan Rutherford, the Vice-Chancellor of London University, has already told MPs and peers that fees would have to be considered before the review is completed if standards were to be maintained. London would not sacrifice quality to "churn out a mass of cheap, low-quality graduates".

The scheme to be put to the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals envisages fees of £1,200 a year, rising to £2,400 by 2005. Loans for maintenance costs would be increased to a maximum of £4,475 a year. Students would have 20 years to make repayments through National Insurance.

Doug Trainer, president of the National Union of Students, said his members would be "appalled" at proposals from the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals. They would lead to higher education being available only to those who could afford it.

Mr Trainer accused the vice-chancellors of a "cop-out" by looking to students instead of the Government to make good the deficit. "Students are prepared to make a contribution to the cost of their own education, through loans covering their living costs, but asking them to repay the cost of tuition as well is too much."

A Labour spokesman said the party did not propose asking students to contribute towards the cost of fees. "Once you start doing that, where do you draw the line? The danger is that you would end up with students paying all their fees."

The vice-chancellors' scheme would transfer about a third of the cost of tuition from the Government to students. Repayments would add about 3p in the pound to graduates' tax burden, although those on low incomes would have payments deferred.

Fees plan is opening bid for reform

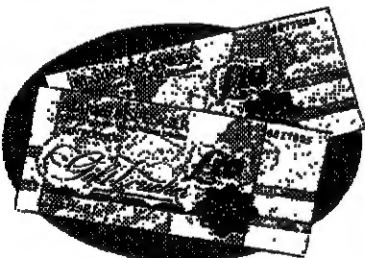
THROUGHOUT the 1990s, universities have been inching their way towards charging students fees (John O'Leary writes). Tomorrow's expected endorsement of proposals for a national scheme will be another step along the road, but no more than that.

Only ministers can deliver a system of the type backed by those vice-chancellors who favour fees — financial realities have probably swollen the ranks sufficiently to see the package through the conference. The plan may not reach Whitehall since it will be a submission to Sir Ron Dearing's review of higher education. The proposals should be regarded more as an opening bid than a blueprint. There would be resistance whichever party forms the next government.

Repaying loans through National Insurance, for example, as the vice-chancellors recommend, may seem sensible and convenient. But the system has never been available to outsiders and the Treasury remains reluctant to earmark public funds.

Both the Conservatives and Labour acknowledge that students will have to pay more, but neither has been prepared to risk alienating middle-class voters by going as far as the vice-chancellors would like.

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Iron Lady turned squeamish over painted scenes of bloodshed

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

BARONESS THATCHER, whose fearlessness as Prime Minister earned her the sobriquet the Iron Lady, had an aversion to the sight of blood. She was so squeamish that she ordered several gory oil paintings at Chequers, the Prime Minister's country residence, to be hidden when she arrived in 1979.

According to Jane Uff, curator of the Chequers Trust, Lady Thatcher had been upset by several large canvases that depicted bloody hunting scenes and wounded animals. Miss Uff told the BBC Radio 4 programme *Inside Chequers*, broadcast yesterday, that Lady Thatcher had found the pictures "gruesome" and could not bear to have them prominently displayed.

The paintings to which she had most objected were *The Lion and The Mouse*, by Frans Snyders, and *Young Sportsman with Dog and Dead Game*, by Jan Fyt. Both have been part of the large Chequers art collection since the house, in Buckinghamshire, was bequeathed to the nation in 1917 by Lord Lee of Fareham.

As was her right, the Prime Minister had the offending paintings removed from principal rooms to smaller ante-chambers and back stair-

cases. Less disturbing paintings were put up in their place. "She didn't like blood and guts coming out of animals, which I can well understand," Miss Uff said. "She had them placed elsewhere so that they were not the first thing you saw when you entered the house."

Baroness Thatcher's hitherto unknown vulnerability will come as a surprise to former colleagues and supporters. One former aide said: "She

She could wade through blood if she had to"

Former aide

could wade through blood if she had to."

The gory paintings remain part of the Chequers collection. Most of the pictures are family portraits connected to the history of the house and its former owners. Others paintings were from the personal collection of the Lee family.

Chequers was close to Baroness Thatcher's heart. Unlike John and Norma Major who still live in Huntingdon, the Thatchers made it their

home and spent most weekends there. In her memoirs, she wrote: "I do not think anyone has stayed long at Chequers without falling in love with it."

Frans Snyders and Jan Fyt, the two 17th-century artists who painted the gory scenes, will not turn in their graves over news of Baroness Thatcher's disapproval (Dalya Alberge writes).

They were awarded the ultimate accolade, respect from their great contemporary, Rubens. The master, who had assistants and pupils producing pictures at his studio in almost assembly-line fashion, commissioned Snyders and Fyt to paint sections of his own paintings. Snyders worked on still-lives and animals in them and Fyt is believed to have painted some of the backgrounds.

Yesterday art experts, far from criticising Lady Thatcher, said that she was justified in refusing to live with such pictures. Julia Lloyd-Williams, curator of Dutch and Flemish art at the National Galleries of Scotland, said that the Snyders painting was wonderfully vital and brilliant, particularly in its depiction of dripping blood — "but I wouldn't want to eat my dinner in front of it".



The Lion and the Mouse by Frans Snyders: Margaret Thatcher had this and other gory pictures banished to the back staircases at Chequers

13 died when coach driver 'had lapse of concentration'

By RICHARD DUCE

THIRTEEN people on a British Legion outing "drifted quietly" to their deaths when their coach driver either fell asleep or lost concentration, a court was told yesterday. Steven Brown lost control of the Volvo coach which crashed through a barrier and overturned into a water-filled culvert on the M4 near Bristol.

Ten people were killed at the scene and three others died in hospital. All were either war veterans or their relatives. Bristol Crown Court was told. The party had been returning to Dorset in May last year from a day-trip to a brewery in Cardiff organised by the Royal British Legion Club in Christchurch. Mr Brown, 40, of Bournemouth, denies a specimen charge that by dangerous driving he caused the death of Kathleen Coombes, 76.

Alun Jenkins, prosecuting, said there was no suggestion that Mr Brown had been drinking or had been speeding when the coach left the motorway between the Severn Bridge and the Almondsbury interchange on the hot and sunny afternoon. "But this driver either fell asleep or failed to maintain his concentration — perhaps because of the nature of the afternoon — in circumstances where he should have maintained his attention and should have stayed awake," he said.

He described how, on a gradual bend, the coach "drifted quietly" off the motorway. It smashed through post-and-rail fencing and toppled into the ditch.

Mr Jenkins said Mr Brown had started work at 7.25am

and had picked up his British Legion party about 8am. They arrived at the brewery some four hours later.

He emphasised that Mr Brown was not seen to drink during the brewery tour and the prosecution was not claiming he had driven for excessive hours. Mr Jenkins said that a car driver who was following the coach before the crash saw no brake lights or any violent movement.

He said the jury would also hear evidence that the coach's tachograph recording device provided no evidence of hard braking or violent movement. Neither was there evidence that an obstacle, such as a wooden pallet, had forced the coach driver to take evasive action.

Mr Jenkins said: "Here there is a driver who has 40 people's lives in his hands. He must have felt tired and that tiredness may have resulted in him falling asleep. It certainly resulted in him losing concentration."

If that was the case, he said, then it was beyond doubt that the driving of a man in charge of a public service vehicle fell below the standard of competence required. "In the circumstances of this case it must have been obvious that you could not take risks of falling asleep when you are likely to kill or injure."

Brian Gwynne, the coach owner from Laguna Travel, Bournemouth, told the jury that Mr Brown was a "loyal and faithful man". He was still employed as a driver by the company. The trial continues today.

Jogger wife stabbed her husband

By A STAFF REPORTER

A WIFE subjected to 13 years of mental and physical cruelty snapped when her drunken husband made her go jogging to lose weight while he followed in a car.

She stabbed him five times after telephoning police and telling them that she intended to take her revenge, a court was told yesterday. However, Mary Connors asked the desk sergeant how best to avoid plunging the knife in her victim's heart as she did not want to kill him "because the children like their father".

Mrs Connors, 30, a mother of five, was sentenced to two years' probation — including psychiatric supervision — at Teesside Crown Court. The jury was told that James Connors made his wife go jogging late one night near their home in Thornaby-on-Tees. The next day she attacked him.

Mrs Connors admitted wounding. However, the court was told that her husband had refused to make an official

£1m royal stamps go on display

By ALAN HAMILTON

TWO of the rarest stamps in the world, valued at more than £1 million each, are the star attractions at an exhibition which draws on the Queen's collection.

Both are from Mauritius, dated 1847, and one, an unused twopenny, is regarded as the finest specimen in the royal collection. It was bought by the future King George V at auction in 1904 for £1,450, then a world record price.

Courtiers said of George V that he spent his entire life shooting defenceless birds or sticking stamps in albums. His collection ran to 325 volumes. When the Mauritius twopenny came up for auction, he is said to have instructed his agent to telegraph him at Sandringham if he was able to buy it, but on no account to mention the price. When a courtier subsequently asked him if he had heard that some fool had paid £1,450 for a stamp, he replied: "I was that fool."

The exhibition opens at the National Postal Museum in

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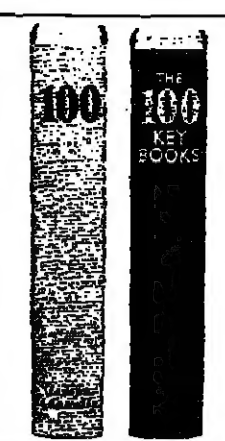
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Government accuses Germany of failing to observe international accord Britain pleads for abducted children

By RUSSELL JENKINS

GERMANY was named by the Government yesterday as the worst offender for harboring children snatched by a parent in "tug-of-war" cases, against the spirit of the 43-nation Hague Convention on Child Abduction.

In a highly unusual step, the Lord Chancellor's Department said that the German authorities had been loath to observe the international agreement to return youngsters to their resident country in custody cases. Last year 17 cases from England and Wales led to formal requests to Germany, yet none of the children was returned to its lawful parent by judicial process. Four were handed over voluntarily.

Officials in the Lord Chancellor's Department accused the German courts of hiding behind legal technicalities which allowed countries to override the obligation to repatriate a child if he or she would be "in danger" if returned, or the child was mature enough to express a wish. Ministers plan to condemn the conduct of Germany — and to a lesser extent the United States, Greece and Spain — next March at a Special Commission of the Hague Convention to review the operation of procedures governing international child abduction. Gary Streeter, Parliamentary Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department, pledged that Britain would take the lead.

According to government statistics, there were 156 applications last year for the return of children to England and Wales, and 158 applications from other countries to Britain, involving a total of 488

children. The case of Catherine Layle, whose estranged German husband abducted their two sons in 1994, has been a key to the Government's strong response.

Ms Layle has fought a long battle with the German courts after judges refused to recognise a British High Court order demanding their return. Mr Streeter said: "All of us feel compassion for the children caught up in abduction cases. The Hague Convention has been a reasonable success. Now we are seeking to improve the workings."

In England and Wales, cases from abroad are referred directly to the High Court for an order for the return of the child. The application automatically attracts legal aid. Mr Streeter said that, if necessary, children are escorted on to an aircraft. He wants other countries to go some way towards a uniform response by establishing "best practice" principles.

Ministers want to strengthen adherence to the general principle that, in cases where the abducted child expresses a wish to remain in the country to which they have been taken, the decision of the courts in the child's native country should take precedence. An international arbitration panel has also been suggested.

Reunite, the National Council for Abducted Children, estimates that more than 1,000 were taken from Britain each year and only a fraction were returned. Denise Carter, director of the council, emphasised the need for a fast-track appeals system like Britain's. "The longer a dispute goes on, the more difficult it becomes to repatriate a child,"



CATHERINE LAYLE has had no contact with her sons Alexander, 11, left, and Constantin, 9, since she spoke to them by telephone in December 1994. She was travelling to Paris yesterday on the latest leg of her physically and financially exhausting battle to win them back.

I have no rights, says mother of snatched boys

In search of a British publisher, her story has already prompted the Lord Chancellor's Department to act. Officials in the department said that her plight was one of the spurs behind ministers' determination to reform the dismal record of the Hague

Convention on International Child Abduction. In 1994 Ms Layle's estranged German husband, Peter Volkman, abducted their sons while they were staying with him on holiday. A court in his home town refused to recognise a British

High Court order demanding their return.

Legally Ms Layle, 43, from London, can see her children for four hours a month, but even this is denied to her. Her husband will not allow access for fear that she will snatch them back. "I have no rights," she said. "To my husband I would like to say: 'Think of the children.' No man who loves his children could deny to them their right to have a mother."

Jellyfish attack farm salmon

By NICK NUTTALL

ASCOTTISH farm has lost an estimated £250,000 of salmon after an incident in which jellyfish stung the fish in their cages.

Up to 100 tonnes of salmon from Loch Fyne, Strathclyde, were destroyed after a build-up of several thousand lion's mane jellyfish, thought to have been caused by unusual tidal and breeding conditions.

It is believed to be the most damaging case of its kind in Scottish fish farming.

William Crows, chief executive of the Scottish Salmon Growers' Association, said: "Although jellyfish do pose a threat to fish, the last major incident was in Shetland some time ago, but I'd have to say even that was nothing on this scale."

He said that the freak conditions led a high concentration of jellyfish to push up against the fish cage at Argyll, Tarbert, and sting the salmon with their poisonous tentacles.

The lion's mane jellyfish looks similar to the Portuguese man-of-war but poses no threat to human beings. Mr Crows said that salmon farmers were helpless because, unlike seals, jellyfish could not be scared away from the cages.

Volunteers banned from releasing mental patients

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

STEPHEN DORRELL is to remove the power of lay health volunteers to discharge potentially violent mental patients from hospital.

The Health Secretary took action after Glen Grant, a double rapist who had schizophrenia, was released from a psychiatric unit by a panel of three health volunteers against the advice of a psychiatrist who had given warning that he might be violent. Four days later Grant raped again. He was given five life sentences by the Old Bailey in February.

A working group was set up to look at the system of discharging psychiatric patients. Mr Dorrell's move, announced yesterday, followed the publication of the working group's report. As soon as

a legislative slot can be found, he will strip "lay managers' panels" of what he called their "anomalous" rights to discharge patients detained under the Mental Health Act. His move was welcomed by the Royal College of Psychiatrists, whose members have been infuriated at their clinical decisions being overturned, and by the mental health charity, Mind, argued that it was a politically motivated move to give the impression of action, with a general election approaching. They said that it would lead to more patients waiting for longer periods to be released, with no guarantee of better decisions.

"Lay managers" exercise the right to decide whether mental patients should be detained against their will. The practice is derived from the asylum system and dates back to the 19th century. The volunteers need have no medical qualifications; some receive just a day's training. Although nationally, only 5 per cent of releases are made against medical advice, in one area that rose to 50 per cent. A mental patient who is "sectioned" — kept against his will for his or her public safety — can apply to the panel of lay managers or to a mental health review tribunal, a formal body consisting of a lay member, a doctor and a legal chairman, to be released. The tribunals are to have sole responsibility for discharging patients.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Handgun discovered in prison

Police and sniffer dogs were called in to help to search a jail after a Walther PPK handgun and seven rounds of ammunition were found hidden in the cavity of a garden wall, Coldingley prison, near Bisleigh, Surrey, is a Category C jail and does not house high-risk prisoners among its 286 inmates. Earlier this year, an inspection report criticised the low level of searches there. The weapon was discovered after a tip-off, in an area where prisoners meet for daily association. Tony Pearson, head of security in the Prison Service, said: "The possibility of a serious incident has been averted."

Quick return

A prisoner freed four weeks early in the confusion over release dates is behind bars after allegedly committing ten crimes in 11 days. The man, 20, from Nottingham, was taken into custody after the Crown Prosecution Service appealed against a decision to bail him.

Revenge on gulls

Environment officials in Scarborough are to be equipped with 2ft-long, pump-action water rifles in an effort to prevent seagulls from settling in town-centre nests in the North Yorkshire resort. The weapons can fire a jet of water about 50ft.

Ford brake fault

Ford asked owners of some Fiesta models to take their cars to dealers for adjustments after a brake pedal problem was reported. About 81,000 new model Fiestas and Courier vans built between June 1995 and July 1996 are involved.

Breakfast tippie

Glasgow, which banned the drinking of alcohol in its streets last month, will allow many pubs to open at 8am from next spring under a plan intended to increase tourism. The Licensing Board said: "This is a further measure to civilise drinking in Glasgow."

Handy bequest

A childless couple who died within days of each other left their £300,000 house to their handyman, Frank Donohue, 75, was also left £40,000 by Gordon and Peggie Bloor, of Thornton, Blackpool. Mr Bloor was vice-chairman of Blackpool FC.

Unlucky break

Norman Pace, of the comedy double act Hale and Pace, has broken his pelvis falling off a horse while holidaying in Spain. He will be flown back to Britain for treatment. Hale and Pace had just learnt to ride for a programme in which they learn to play polo.

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Hoard of Roman silver is all forged

By ROBIN YOUNG

A HOARD of 160 Roman coins unearthed at a secret location in north Suffolk has proved to consist entirely of fakes. Instead of being solid silver the coins are bronze covered with silver plate.

On some the work is so amateurish that the Roman emperor's name is misspelt: "T Claud" for Tiberius Claudius, appears as "T Caud". Some experts speculate that the counterfeit cash may have been used by Roman generals to pay their soldiers. But John Orma-Orstein, curator of Roman coins at the British Museum, who has been negotiating to buy the hoard, is doubtful. "The Roman authorities punished forgery very severely," he said yesterday. "I do not think they could have adopted such a policy in one part of the empire while countering it elsewhere."

The coins appear to date from the reign of Claudius between AD 41 and 54. All but four bear his image. Because they are base metal counterfeits they are not subject to the rules on treasure trove. Some from the hoard have already been sold, but the Department of National Heritage has stepped in to prevent eight going abroad. Lord Inglewood, a Heritage Minister, announced that an export licence would be deferred, at least until November, to give time for a British buyer to come forward. Despite being fakes, three coins have been valued at £825 each, and the rest at £495 each.

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Seabirds in decline after Pembroke oil disaster

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

THE population of seabirds on several islands off the Pembrokeshire coast has fallen in the wake of the *Sea Empress* disaster.

A report by the Government's wildlife advisers in Wales, challenges claims that the oil spill in February was far less damaging than wildlife groups first believed. Mick Baines, of the Dyfed Wildlife Trust in Newport, Gwent, who has co-ordinated the surveys, said yesterday: "As far as seabirds are concerned, it has clearly had a significant impact."

Tony Prater, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said that the findings vindicated the charity's assertions at the time that the spill was serious. "It is going to take a long time to replace these lost birds. Guillemots only lay a maximum of one egg per pair," he said. The surveys, published by the Countryside Council for Wales, show that, in and around the areas where the slicks appeared, some small colonies have declined by up to 58 per cent; bigger colonies have declined by up to 16 per cent. Colonies outside the affected areas have continued to rise, indicating that the falls can be linked to the tanker disaster rather than bad weather, normal illnesses or a decline in food reserves.

On St Margaret's Island there were 791 breeding guillemots in 1995 but the latest survey shows numbers are down to 334. "It is quite dramatic," Mr Baines said. Although the ledges had been stained white from years of guillemot occupation, this year there were "just a few desultory birds standing around".

At Skomer and Eilegug

Stacks, more than 2,650 birds have disappeared, with some colonies down by 16 per cent. Mr Baines said that, although some colonies there had maintained their numbers, the overall population was lower than expected.

Numbers of breeding guillemots and razorbills had been rising in Pembrokeshire over many years by between 5 and 6 per cent. "So the lack of increase at these colonies is probably due to the oil spill," Mr Baines said.

Dr Malcolm Smith, director of policy and science at the Countryside Council for Wales, said: "The monitoring studies we commissioned recorded 3,403 fewer guillemots breeding in south Pembrokeshire this year than in 1995, a 17 per cent decline overall. In the area affected by the oil spill the numbers of other seabird species have also decreased. "Shag and cormorant populations are reduced, and the razorbill population has declined by 7 per cent, over 400 birds," he said. "In north Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion, away from the oil spill, numbers continued to increase, with a thousand more guillemots breeding."

He added that the findings indicated that a large number of birds had died at sea, the deaths having been unrecorded. Mr Baines said the birds that had survived seemed to be producing eggs and chicks. "But we do not know anything about the quality of the food they were feeding their chicks and whether or not that was contaminated."

Not until next year will the monitoring programme disclose if the quality of the food has had any longer-term ill effects.



Nigel Symes of the RSPB is helping to restore several heathland sites in Dorset

Heathland revival raises hope for rare species

By Nick Nuttall

THE 200-year decline in Britain's heathlands has been reversed, raising hope for the survival of rare species including the sand lizard, the silver-studded blue butterfly, the Dartford warbler and the Dorset heath heather.

Over the past ten years the trend for areas of heathland to be lost to road, housebuilding and scrub has been halted and up to 550 hectares of damaged heath has been restored, experts will tell a conference in the New Forest today.

Graham Wynne, director of conservation at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said: "We have lost 72 per cent of heathlands since 1750 and the loss has continued right up to the late 1980s. But we seem to have stopped the rot."

However, he said that an upturn in the economy could bring the bulldozers back to these important British habitats, which account for a fifth of Europe's heaths. Many of the remaining heaths cling on in counties such as Dorset, Suffolk, Surrey and Hampshire where there are strong development pressures.

Mr Wynne said that by preserving heathlands, areas of land created by Bronze Age farmers and settlers and their animals, would benefit people

as well as wildlife. A survey by English Nature, the Government's wildlife advisory body, found that 90 per cent of people thought that heathland should be preserved. Most of those questioned used heaths for walking and bird-watching.

The revival in the fortunes of Britain's heaths has come partly from the recession and partly from more than £1 million given by BP and the European Union under the European Life programme.

Helpers set land ablaze

A GROUP trying to preserve an ancient heath set fire to it instead. Hundreds of rabbits and hedgehogs were killed when flames up to 30ft swept half a mile across the coastal heath near RAF Woodvale at Southport, Merseyside, on Sunday night.

The fire started as volunteers in the Sefton Coast Life Project, which is partly funded by English Nature, tried to remove gorse for National Heathland Week. The group accepted responsibility for the "sad but not unrecoverable loss".

Nigel Symes, the RSPB's Dorset heathland project manager, said yesterday that several sites were being restored, including Blackhill Heath, part of which were overrun with bracken, and Grange Heath where dense scrub was taking hold. At Trigon Heath, near Wareham, restoration had encouraged the return of small numbers of breeding pairs of heathland birds such as wood lark and nightjar.

Britain is committed to helping 116 species and several habitats, including heaths under its recently announced biodiversity strategy, which meets commitments made by the Prime Minister at the Earth Summit in Rio. There are 45,000 hectares of heathland left in Britain, mostly in England. The strategy calls for a 10 per cent increase by 2005, which will cost about £675,000.

Mr Wynne said that, where heaths were under threat, their future was largely in the hands of government agencies, including Forestry Enterprise and the Ministry of Defence. He urged landowners to take up grants offered by English Nature and the Forestry Commission for the restoration of heaths and return of grazing animals.



Thompson: he can now read books again

Star Trek headset helps man to see again

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A DOCTOR who had to give up work when he lost his sight is able to read again thanks to a high-tech device originally developed for the American space agency Nasa.

Dr Bob Thompson, from Hutton Buscel, near Scarborough, North Yorkshire, was forced to retire early after he developed macular degeneration, leaving him with peripheral vision only. The condition is common in older people.

Dr Thompson was told about a device called LIVES (low vision enhancement system), developed by Dr Bob Massoff at the Wilmer Institute in Baltimore, and manufactured by Sight Line Incorporated. "It was amazing, as I could actually read a book for the first time for more than a year," he said.

The device consists of three miniature television cameras mounted on a headband. A greatly magnified image is projected onto a mirror and directly into the eyes.

"It can also be plugged directly into the television or video recorder so that I can watch those too," Dr Thompson said. The images are black and white, but he said that was a small price to pay.

The system is powered by a battery pack or the mains. The eyes are covered by the headset, which looks rather like a virtual reality system. "My children think the equipment is great fun because you look like somebody out of Star Trek," he said.

The equipment costs £3,300 in the United States. Adapting it for the different television system in Britain increased the cost to just over £4,500.

Lottery grants to revive age of steam

By John Young

NOSTALGIA for the great days of steam is behind the award of grants totalling nearly £600,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore three historic locomotives and to improve display facilities.

The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Trust in Haworth, west Yorkshire, will receive £95,000 to help to restore an 0-6-0 locomotive, No 752, built in 1881 for freight duties. It was given to the trust in 1967 and will haul coaches on the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway, which carries 50,000 passengers every year.

Two other grants go to projects associated with the same railway: £189,600 to the Vintage Carriages Trust, in Keighley, to extend its museum and to provide a new workshop and service pit, and £87,000 to the Ingham Railway Museum in Keighley to allow it to display engines owned by the Bahamas Locomotive Society.

The Darlington Railway Centre and Museum will be given £100,000 to repair and convert the Hopetown carriage works, on the site of the world's first passenger railway, the Stockton and Darlington, to provide an assembly workshop.

At Preston, Lancashire, the Furness Railway Trust receives £97,500 for the rebuilding of Locomotive No 18, which first saw service in 1863 and which will return to work on the Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway, a big tourist attraction in Cumbria.

The Midland Railway Centre, in Swanwick, Derbyshire, gets £20,000 to help to restore the *Princess Elizabeth*, one of 12 Princess Royals built in Crewe in the 1930s for the London, Midland and Scottish Railways. Named after the present Queen, it took part in a record-breaking run from London to Glasgow in 1936 to test the feasibility of non-stop inter-city running.

Restoration of the last surviving "sidewinder" trawler from the once lucrative distant water fleet, which roamed the North Atlantic fisheries from its base in Hull, is to be completed with the help of £147,200 from the fund. The *Arctic Corsair* will be moored in the old town and will provide educational displays and guided tours for an expected 10,000 visitors a year.

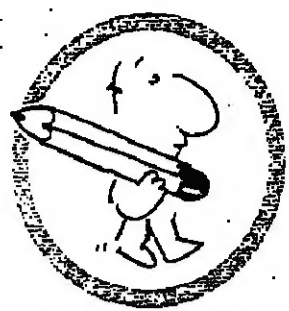
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"You can't train a cartoonist," says Peter Brookes, *The Times's* political cartoonist, "they just emerge", and while the drawing is important, "you don't have to laugh at a cartoon, but it must make you sit up."

To see if you can make the judges of the second annual Mel Calman Awards sit up, send them a pocket cartoon — the single-column joke for which Mel Calman was best known — on a topical national news story.

The theme of the com-

petition is open. The size of entries should be A4 maximum, on paper, board or card only and drawn in ink or pencil. The age limit for entries is under 30 on the deadline date of December 31, 1996.

The judges will be: John Jensen (chairman), chairman BCA; Chic Jacob, treasurer BCA; Mark Bryant, secretary BCA; Peter Maddocks, founder of BCA; Pat Huntley, secretary, The Friends of the Cartoon Art Trust; Enzo Apicella, BCA member; David Driver, Head of Design, *The Times*; Peter

Brookes, Political Cartoonist, *The Times*; Steve Bell, Political Cartoonist, *The Guardian*; Clare Calman, writer and daughter of Mel Calman; Posy Simmonds, cartoonist; and Jonathan Cusick, Winner Mel Calman Awards, 1995

Send entries to: The Mel Calman Awards 1996, Ashentree Court, London, EC8B 8NG, arriving no later than Dec 31, 1996. Write your name, age and address on the back of your entry. If under 18, mark "Under 18".

Calman exhibition demonstrates the little art of thinking big.

Honouring the master as search begins for a new pocket genius

BY JOE JOSEPH

Today *The Times* launches its second annual competition for young cartoonists in memory of Mel Calman, whose daily front-page cartoons gave *Times* readers a wry, mischievous and frequently moving snapshot of the passing world. The launch of the competition coincides with the opening of a retrospective of Calman's work at London's Royal National Theatre.

The judges are looking for a pocket cartoon — the single-column joke for which Calman was renowned — on a topical national news story. Sponsored by *The Times* and the British Cartoonists' Association, the competition is hoping to sniff out unknowns who can follow in the footsteps of past masters such as Calman and Mark Boxer, and join

today's newspaper greats, including Matt (The Daily Telegraph), Peter Brookes (The Times) and Steve Bell (The Guardian). Brookes and Bell are among the judges, who also include Calman's writer daughter, Clare.

The winner gets £1,500. Any entrant seeking inspiration could do worse than head for the Lyttelton Circle at the National, on the South Bank, for the exhibition, *A Collection of Calmans*, begins this morning, spanning a 30-year career in newspapers, magazines, books, television, radio and advertising.

The trope includes everything from those topical jokes reflecting Calman's insights into politics or human condition — many of which seasoned the front pages of *The Times* for 15 years until his death in 1994 — and his drawings for the Evening

Standard and *The Sunday Telegraph*, to his colour drawings of Cannes and Glyndebourne and sketches behind the scenes at the Royal Opera House.

The battle of the sexes — on which Calman was an accomplished armchair and drawing-board expert — is well covered at the show, which includes the rarely seen *Calman in Eden* and his two-tier Couples strips. These were recently unearthed in his legendary, Kafka-approved filing system in which he carefully filed everything under M for Miscellaneous.

The broadcaster and writer Michael Palin, a long-time friend of the cartoonist, said: "The autobiographical element is what gives Mel's work a raw edge of honesty and an appeal that makes the Calman trademark stand out among those of his contemporaries.

Few have made such a characteristic imprint on their times."

Calman could barely look at an old envelope, a tablecloth, a strip of wallpaper (still stuck to the wall), even a drawer lining without doodling on it, and included in the work on display at the National are ceramics, birthday cards, book ideas, doodles and sketchbooks never previously shown in public.

John Langley, theatre manager of the National, said: "Mel was a huge fan of the National. We were just now opening one of his sketchbooks and a 1978 ticket for the Lyttelton dropped out. He was often here on first nights."

There is another link between the cartoonist and the National. Sir Peter Hall, director of *The Oedipus Plays* which opened last night, was at school with Calman at The Perse, in Cambridge. Sir Peter may have dazzled some of the teachers more, but both boys appeared in the same school production of *Hamlet*.

"I need hardly say Peter Hall was *Hamlet*," Calman later recalled. He was Third Player. "Still, my part was crucial. I got to pour the poison in the King's ear — and the whole plot does rather hang on this murder."

In spite of a bout of stage fright, Calman's performance was word-perfect. He left for home glowing after the curtain fell. At the bus stop, he met his English master, Mr Wollman, who asked if he had enjoyed the play.

"Very much, sir," Calman beamed proudly. "I was in it." "Really?" Mr Wollman said. "I didn't notice."

The closing date for entries for this year's Mel Calman Awards is December 31. The two runners-up will receive £500 each and there will be a special category for those under 18, also with a £500 prize.

Joining this year's judging panel will be Jonathan Cusick, last year's 17-year-old winner from Tamworth, Staffordshire, whose caricature of BBC's *Food and Drink* team beat a heavy postbag of competition.

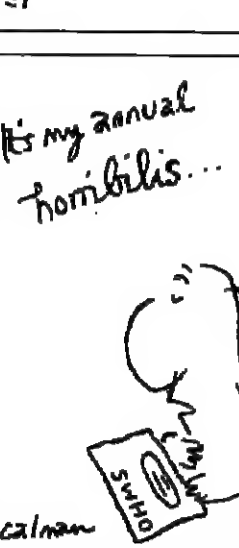
Since winning, Cusick has been approached with various possible commissions, including painting a caricature of the Bishop of Birmingham and doing a mural for an indoor ski-slope in Tamworth. Next week, he begins his degree in visual communications at the University of Central England in Birmingham.

"After that," he says, "I'll either do an MA or start a career as a cartoonist. Winning has definitely given me a lift and made me more confident."

"It has also made me more resilient against criticism." Handy for a cartoonist.

Arts, pages 32-34

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Housman finally squeezes into Poets' Corner

BY ALAN HAMILTON

SIXTY years after his death, A. E. Housman won his place in Westminster Abbey yesterday when a memorial window was unveiled by one of his most eminent students, Enoch Powell.

Housman's admission to Poets' Corner is the result of several years lobbying by, among others, the late Sir Kingsley Amis. Dame Iris Murdoch, Seamus Heaney and Mr Powell. At yesterday's service of dedication, selections from the poet's work were read by another admirer, Alan Bennett.

The memorial coincides with the centenary of publication of Housman's best-loved and most familiar work, *A Shropshire Lad*, which has never been out of print since. He was a native of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, and never lived in Shropshire, but wrote of an idealised rural land inspired by the blue remembered hills he saw to the west as a boy.

He became a distinguished classical scholar and Professor of Latin at Cambridge, where he taught the young Powell, who tried to emulate his poetry. The retired MP still cites him as the inspiration of his life.

Poets' Corner is becoming

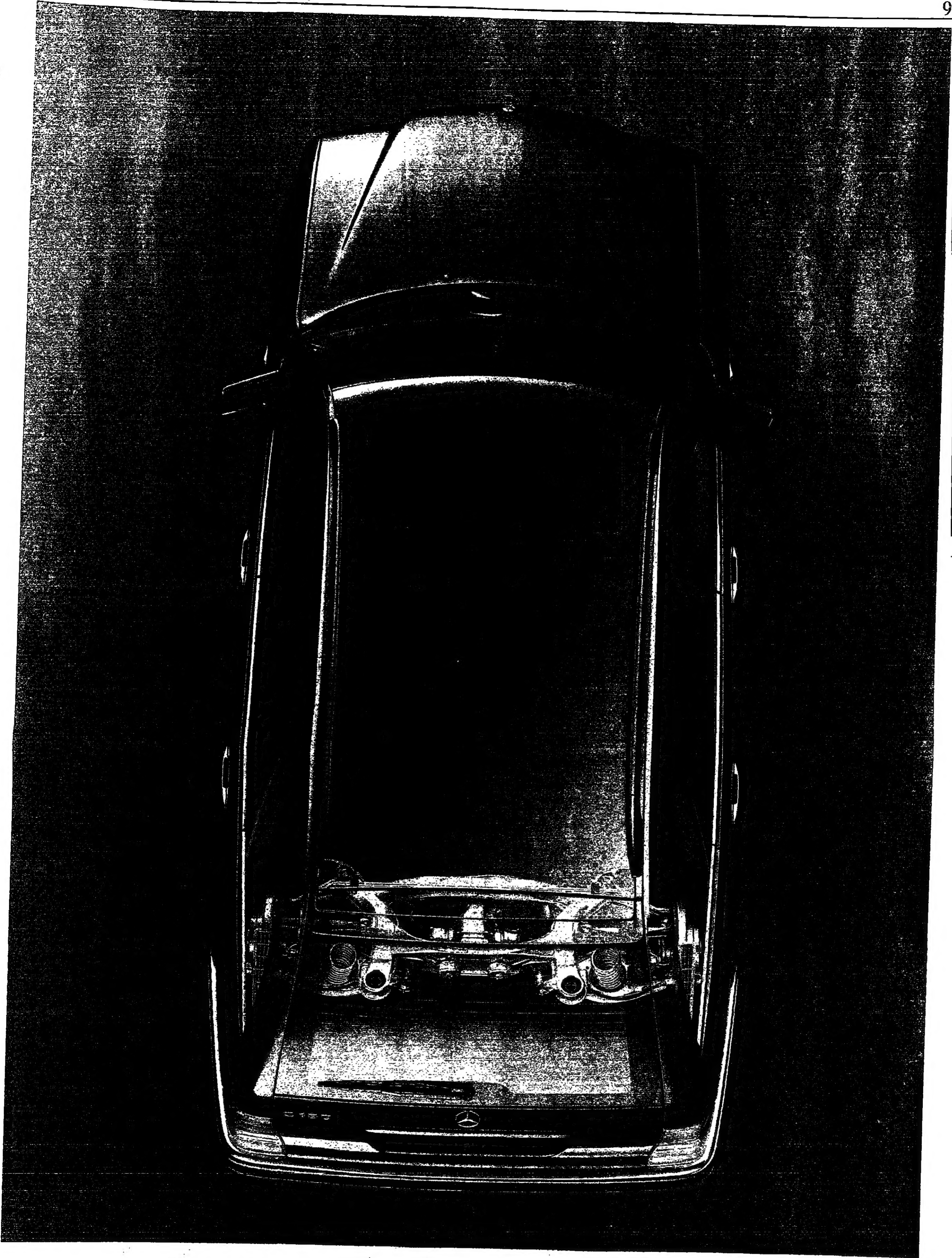
so crowded that there is little room left on floor or walls for further memorials. The Housman tablet is in fact a stained glass panel showing his name and dates (1859-1936) in one of the south transept windows, which now takes the commemorative overflow and where he joins Robert Herrick, Alexander Pope and, most recently, Oscar Wilde. A stained glass memorial to Sir John Betjeman follows later this year.

Emma St John Smith, spokeswoman for the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, said yesterday that memorials in the abbey were by no means confined to literary figures: next week a plaque would be unveiled to Thomas Clarkson, the anti-slavery pioneer regarded by many as a more important figure than William Wilberforce.

"But a memorial in the abbey is not something that ever happens in a hurry. The Dean wants to be very sure that he has got it right, because it is going to be there in perpetuity. The Housman panel was the result of years rather than months of lobbying."

Leading article, page 19
Photograph, page 22

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Franco-German drive for unity slows to a crawl in fog of misunderstanding

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A DENSE fog settled over south-west Germany yesterday morning, disrupting attempts by French and German financial chiefs to stage a much-needed display of unity as Europe heads for a round of crucial summits. Then Waigel, the Finance Minister, was up early to greet his French colleague, Jean Arthuis, but his team searched the sky in vain for a sign of the helicopter from Paris.

In the end the ministers, later joined by central bank governors

and economics ministers, made do with a snatched session in an airport lounge, abbreviated good-will ceremonies and a hollow-sounding declaration in which both countries vowed that they were well on course for European monetary union.

The fog, however, set the mood of the day for rarely has there been so much mutual bewilderment about the motives and intentions of the two partners who claimed to be the engine of the European Union. Germany's 1997 budget, unveiled last week, puts the coun-

try on course to meet the entry criteria for monetary union. But much depends on the reliability of the growth forecast and a number of incomplete sums including the estimates of tax revenue for next year. Herr Waigel certainly reckons on the need for yet another round of spending cuts that will bite into dole payments.

France presents its budget today and this, too, will see swinging cuts in the civil service and in subsidies to the EMU target. No amount of coffee and sandwiches yesterday could wash away

the impression that Germany suspects France of trying to meet the Maastricht targets with creative book-keeping, while France suspects the Germans of wanting to engineer a delay in the start-up date for the common currency.

That is a rough approximation of the whole Franco-German relationship. The drive for monetary union has brought the countries together, but it has also increased the number of cross-frontier resentments. Why cannot the Bundesbank help the French by chopping interest rates — a case of

Frankfurt versus Franc Fort? Why do the Germans not come up with bolder initiatives? Why are the French not communicating more? Why do they pretend that the Franco-German relationship has not changed since unification?

French and Germans have scores of ministerial meetings every year, yet German officials confide they achieve much more in their rarer, more candid, encounters with the British.

Dominique Bompard, who was general secretary of the European Movement between 1991 and 1996,

urges France to shed its indecisiveness about European policy, to accept that Germany is no longer acting from a position of weakness and to develop a more respectful relationship with the smaller EU states that currently find Germany a more sympathetic partner. The Germans have their own complaints. They say that lack of consultation is constantly wrong-footing them. French nuclear testing in the Pacific, plans to get rid of military conscription, confusing the mission of the Franco-German brigade, vagueness about joint

arms projects, even a possibility that France may adjust its clocks to a different time from Germany: all are irritating Bonn beyond measure.

Consolation dinners between Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, and President Chirac are held every six weeks — but they are an unsatisfactory substitute for the long, often philosophical, phone calls with François Mitterrand.

"The Chancellor doesn't like surprises," said a German official who has been charting the relationship.

Rifkind calls for swift expansion of Nato by 1999

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

SOME former Warsaw Pact countries queuing to join Nato should be welcomed into the fold by 1999, according to Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, in the first concrete declaration that Britain wants to see an enlargement of the alliance before the end of the century.

"I hope that the first new members of Nato will be with us at the table in 1999 when Nato celebrates its fiftieth anniversary," Mr Rifkind is to say in a wide-ranging speech in Zurich today, 50 years after Churchill made a ringing call for a unified Europe in the same Swiss city.

Mr Rifkind will temper his enthusiasm for swift Nato enlargement with a tinge of caution to the potential newcomers, however, saying they "will have to show what they can contribute to the security of the alliance: not just what they will receive in return".

The Foreign Secretary will also stress Britain's commitment to Europe, but says that "there is a lesson for Europe's leaders: we should not proceed down a path of integration faster or further than our people are prepared to go".

Mr Rifkind did not expect or want Britain to be part of a United States of Europe, but had referred in his 1946 speech to Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union being "the friends and sponsors of the new Europe".

"Britain has a policy agenda to meet Europe's real needs," Mr Rifkind will say. "We want to strengthen European defence co-operation, to enhance our security."

He will urge people not to become "obsessed by internal institutional wrangling... if we want to help millions of our citizens find jobs, let us promote competitiveness and free trade, not force on employers the dogmatic prescriptions of the Social Chapter".

The Foreign Secretary believes it "would be odd in the

extreme, at a time when countries across Europe wish to come on board, for Britain or any other member to elect to walk the plank off the other side. But I reject, too, the ratchet of unending institutional integration that is a decade behind the reality of a competitive, decentralised world".

Mr Rifkind will also praise Germany and stress the importance of the reconciliation between France and Germany, describing the ties between Paris and Bonn as "a foundation for Europe's renaissance".

After proclaiming that Europe owes its security and prosperity to Nato and the European Union, the Foreign Secretary will declare: "The new Germany itself embodies a spirit of reconciliation."

"A united, democratic Germany is not a threat to Europe," he will tell his audience at Zurich University.

After a week in which German leaders have expressed plans to play a greater role in the Balkans, Mr Rifkind will comment: "I welcome Germany's growing contribution to shouldering the modern burden of international security — her prime role in Nato and the Western European Union, her military presence implementing peace in Bosnia, and her active world diplomacy."

Warning on EMU debate

Brussels: Sir Leon Brittan, Vice-President of the European Commission, warned Britain yesterday that bitter domestic debate about monetary union was endangering its ability to influence the project (Charles Bremner writes).

"The more polarised the debate becomes, the more our European neighbours will become convinced that Britain's arguments... should not be taken seriously during this key preparatory stage," Sir Leon told a Brussels congress, adding: "Now is the time... Britain should remain open-minded about the single currency."

Leading article, page 19



A US tank crewman guards a supply route checkpoint in Kuwait yesterday

More US troops for Kuwait as policy wavers

BY TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER

PRESIDENT CLINTON decided to send a further 3,500 American forces to Kuwait yesterday as the emirate launched a diplomatic offensive to gain support among Gulf and other Arab states for more possible American airstrikes on Iraq.

But in Washington the President failed to evade the most forceful Republican attacks yet on his wavering Iraq policy.

The Pentagon announced that more soldiers would go to Kuwait within days, after leading Republicans emerged from a meeting with Mr Clinton to offer damning indictments of his actions in the Gulf, which they said had done nothing to bolster President Saddam Hussein and split the allied coalition.

"If you say you are going to respond disproportionately and you do not, there is a price to pay," said Senator John McCain, the leading foreign policy spokesman for the House. "Saddam Hussein is far better off than he was two weeks ago. We judge success by results. The results are that Saddam is better off and we have basically done nothing except launch 44 cruise missiles... I am not sure of the meaning of 3,500 troops: we had 260,000 in Desert Storm."

Mr Clinton, Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, and William Perry, the Defence Secretary, organised the meeting amid fierce criticism from Congress that the White House had not consulted Cap-

itol Hill properly. The Republicans urged Mr Clinton to rebuild the international coalition which expelled Saddam's troops from Kuwait in the Gulf War.

Responding to the attacks, Mr Clinton said: "Our goal was to keep Saddam in a box and to defend his neighbours against attack. We have gotten the results that we sought."

Mr Perry and Robert Pelletreau, the Assistant Secretary of State, said they had found "support for more action" during the diplomatic mission to the Gulf, despite a rejection of help from Saudi Arabia.

Mr Pelletreau was expected to meet Massoud Barzani, the leader of the Saddam-backed Kurdistan Democratic Party, in Turkey to mediate an end to the conflict in northern Iraq. There is an air of general confusion in Washington, as political advisers attempt to find the best course of action to benefit Mr Clinton's November re-election hopes.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Information Minister was dispatched to Egypt and Syria and its Defence Minister was on a tour of some of the five other states in the Saudi-led Gulf Co-operation Council. Sheikh Saud al-Sabah, the Information Minister, who met President Mubarak of Egypt first, said Kuwait still felt threatened by the Iraqi leader. Egypt and Syria, pillars of the 1991 coalition, have been less than supportive of the US build-up.

Yeltsin ordered to stay in hospital for tests

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

DOCTORS conducting tests on President Yeltsin yesterday ordered the Kremlin leader to remain in hospital until the end of the week, prompting fears of fresh health problems. Kremlin doctors said that the ailing President would be kept for further tests at the elite Central Clinic. The examinations were described as a "routine pre-operation procedure" ahead of his planned multiple bypass operation set for this autumn.

"I do not see a big problem with the President's health," said Sergei Yastrzhembsky, the presidential spokesman, who joked that over-eager physicians were to blame for the lengthy stay in hospital. "The doctors are delighted that they have finally got their hands on him in hospital as an in-patient."

However, there were indications that medical complications could be responsible for the extended stay in hospital. Earlier Sergei Mironov, the Kremlin's chief physician, said that the open-heart surgery, tentatively scheduled for the end of September, could now be delayed.

Experts believe that the Kremlin leader may be suffer-

ing from some other health problem, which would require treatment before the bypass operation. Pavel Voshchanov, a former Kremlin spokesman, has said that Mr Yeltsin was suffering from kidney problems, cirrhosis of the liver, a bad back, angina pectoris, a chronic infection of the middle ear and a sleeping disorder.

A final decision on when to carry out the operation is expected only after a meeting of Russian doctors with American and German heart specialists, expected on September 25 or 26.

The mounting speculation over the President's health has been complicated by confusion over how long he will be incapacitated and how Russia will be run in his absence. It is widely accepted that Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, will assume most of the duties of the head of state.

But details still have to be completed on the handover of power, particularly the transfer of the "red button" for firing nuclear weapons. Although President Yeltsin has been praised for breaking the Kremlin's traditional shroud of secrecy around medical matters, the move has led to unprecedented public interest. Opposition politicians have wasted little time exploiting the situation. Yesterday Viktor Ilyukhin, a Communist Party legislator who heads the parliamentary security committee, said he would press for a "state medical commission" to monitor the health of senior leaders and ensure no officials seized the chance of a President's illness to rule instead.

Lebed 'settles' Chechen row

Moscow: General Aleksandr Lebed said yesterday that he had resolved a potentially explosive standoff between Chechen rebels and Russian forces (Richard Beeston writes). Speaking after meetings with Chechen rebel leaders and army commanders, the Kremlin's security chief said that he had overcome a week-long dispute over the release of prisoners and the health of senior leaders and ensure no officials seized the chance of a President's illness to rule instead.

Fresh arrests revive Italian bribe scandal

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE head of Italian state railways has been arrested in what is being seen as a dramatic re-emergence of the tangente, or bribery, scandals which rocked the country four years ago.

Lorenzo Necci, 57, hitherto regarded as one of Italy's most promising top managers and a candidate for ministerial office, will be questioned today on a range of charges including embezzlement, fraud, corruption, false accounting and belonging to a "criminal organisation".

He was arrested at his country home near Rome at the weekend and is being held in solitary confinement at La

Spezia, in a cell which — ironically — overlooks the railway line.

The centre-left Government of Professor Romano Prodi, which took office in May, hoped the bribes scandals had run their course and that political and business life had been sufficiently cleaned up for a fresh start to be made.

However, five more arrests, including two magistrates, were announced yesterday in connection with the Necci case. The tangente investigations began in 1992: 2,000 politicians, officials and businessmen were charged, including Silvio Berlusconi, the former Prime Minister.

Strike may unseat governor

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

THE governor of Russia's Far East province was fighting to stay in his job yesterday as more than 10,000 power workers went on indefinite strike.

The strike has not only brought darkness to factories and flats in Vladivostok, where more than two million people live. It is also the first showdown between Anatoli Chubais, the new liberal Kremlin chief of staff, and one of several provincial governors who have turned into petty monarchs.

Yevgeni Nazdratenko, frequently the scourge of liberals, the Chinese Government and the Moscow media, admitted at a Moscow press conference yesterday that he may soon have to resign.

The governor is under attack from all sides. There are threats of more strikes and demands from workers' committees that the Government introduce direct presidential rule for the region.

Mr Nazdratenko has to report to the Kremlin within the next two days on what he has done to comply with the presidential decree ordering him to meet all debts to the local power industry.

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THE TIMES
Killer...
gave...
terror...

Member of the...
remains of...

Srebrenica...
complete...
journey of...

FROM ANTHONY...
THE living in Bosnia...
will find it difficult to...
the place but the first...
of dead from Srebrenica...
at last beginning to...
the journey to the...
held territory they began...
a year ago.

Yesterday a small group...
Muslim forensic scientists...
and labourers from the...
men, most of them...
of dead from Srebrenica...
at last beginning to...
the journey to the...
held territory they began...
a year ago.

The full turned...
massacre. About 100...
men, most of them...
of dead from Srebrenica...
at last beginning to...
the journey to the...
held territory they began...
a year ago.

Although war crimes...
measures from The Hague...
hundreds of bodies...
in the hills have...
undisturbed until now.

As the trail begins...
low, the undergrowth...
hills merging with the...
Some remain...
body has for their journey...
others have been...

Killer says Botha gave orders for terror bombing

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN PRETORIA

A FORMER police assassin claimed in court yesterday that P.W. Botha, the former South African President, and several other senior ministers were involved in "dirty tricks" operations and admitted his own part in the bombing of the African National Congress's London headquarters in 1982.

Eugene de Kock — convicted last month on 89 charges, including murder, attempted murder, fraud and gun-running — told the Pretoria Supreme Court that in the late 1980s he was ordered by Brigadier Willem Schoon to blow up the Johannesburg headquarters of the anti-apartheid Congress of South African Trade Unions. He was told by his boss that the order had been given by Mr Botha.

"I was amused, because we are now talking about terrorism on home ground," he told the hushed courtroom. "I asked him who gave the orders. He told me it came from the highest authority. I asked if this included the President and he said yes."

Now 80 and living at a seaside home after retiring in 1989, Mr Botha has refused to discuss "dirty tricks" allegations or to co-operate with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which is investigating apartheid crimes. The commission has the power to subpoena him.

De Kock admitted that he was part of a team that flew to London in 1981 to blow up the ANC headquarters and acknowledged the killing of several people in cross-border raids in southern Africa. The

bomb was planted behind the ANC headquarters in Penton Street, Islington, and exploded on March 14, 1982, shortly before 9am, as market stallholders were beginning work. Shops, offices and pubs were damaged, but no one was seriously hurt.

De Kock, who once headed an apartheid death squad, is providing details about his knowledge of the apartheid regime's "dirty tricks" against government opponents in the 1980s and early 1990s in the hope of a reduced sentence and an amnesty from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He has vowed privately that he would "not go down alone", and his counsel are clearly hoping that by implicating as many of his superiors as possible they can portray de Kock as one of many buttons on a large shirt.

The evidence by de Kock, the former commander of a counter-insurgency unit, could result in other trials. On Monday, he said Mr Botha must have known about about a 1985 attack he led into neighbouring Lesotho on suspected ANC members in which ten died, and spoke about how other killings were carried out on orders from above.

During testimony yesterday de Kock portrayed himself as a plumber who was called on by security chiefs and politicians to do their dirty work. He recalled numerous occasions when he was contacted at his Vlakplaas base, near Pretoria, by superiors from across the country and re-

quested to intimidate or eliminate government opponents, assist in cover-ups and carry out sabotage operations. "At Vlakplaas, if we went for you, we went for you," he said.

As well as Mr Botha, de Kock named R.F. "Pik" Botha, the former Foreign Minister, Adriaan Vlok, the former Law and Order Minister, and several police and army generals who either ordered or knew about cross-border raids and attacks on government opponents inside South Africa.

He also said General Basie Smit gave written approval for arms and ammunition to be supplied to the Inkatha Freedom Party for its war on the ANC and named several senior Inkatha officials who were involved in gun-running.

F.W. de Klerk, Mr Botha's successor, told the truth commission last month that he and other government leaders had never personally sanctioned "dirty tricks".



The Dalai Lama shares a joke with Kim Beazley, the Labor opposition leader, at a meeting in Parliament House, Canberra, yesterday. John Howard, the Australian Prime Minister, who is coming under increasing pressure to meet the Tibetan

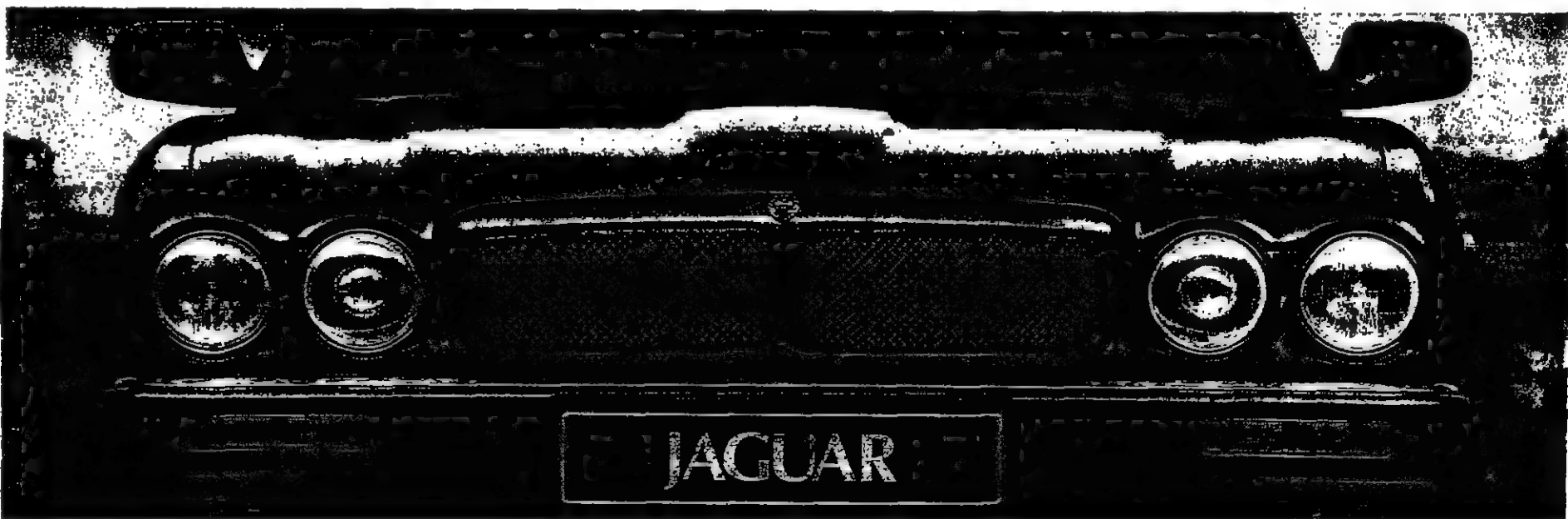
Dalai Lama visit angers China

spiritual leader during his two-week stay in the country, said he would do so next week if their programmes permit. His announcement prompt-

ed China, within an hour, to threaten trade retaliation. Mr Howard, who is visiting Indonesia, said he understood the sensitivities of the

Chinese Government. "I have explained to the Chinese authorities that, naturally, the Australian Prime Minister decides, according to Australian interests, who the Australian Prime Minister sees," Mr Howard added. (Reuters)

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Srebrenica's dead complete their journey of despair

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN KRAVICA, EASTERN BOSNIA

THE living in Bosnia may still find it difficult to move as they please, but the thousands of dead from Srebrenica are at last beginning to complete the journey to government-held territory they began over a year ago.

Yesterday a small group of Muslim forensic scientists and labourers from the Sarajevo-based Commission for Exchange and Missing, an organisation set up to facilitate repatriation for prisoners and the war dead, was allowed for the third day by the Bosnian Serbs to cross the lines and begin to remove the bodies of those killed as they fled from the abandoned United Nations "safe area" in July last year.

The route turned into a massacre. About 15,000 Muslim men, most of them unarmed civilians, escaped from the fallen town across hills to the west. An estimated 3,500 succeeded; the rest are missing. The Serbs were murdered: most were hunted down and killed in the mountainous woodland.

Although war crimes investigators from The Hague exhumed and removed a few hundred bodies, the mass of bodies in the hills have lain undisturbed until now.

"We have started work along the first (mile and a quarter) of their escape route," said the head of the commission. "and we have already found hundreds of bodies. It will take us a month to complete the journey, by which time we estimate we will have collected over 10,000 dead."

As the trail begins, the first few corpses become visible through the undergrowth, bleached skulls and scattered bones merging with the foliage. Some remain complete and are given the dignity of a body bag for their journey to a mortuary in Tuzla; many others have been scattered

and mingled by forest animals and are collected together in amorphous jumbles of bones in transparent bags.

A tiny skeleton lies at the foot of a tree in a stained white blouse, a plastic comb across its legs — "the body of a young girl" one of the men says.

An elderly man detaches himself from the commission workers and walks over. He was in this clearing in July last year as part of the second group of the escaping column, and has returned as an adviser. "This was where we rested during the day," he says. "There were hundreds of us in the group, but only a few soldiers. Just before 7pm the Serbs shelled the clearing. It was a scene from hell. Then Serb soldiers ambushed us from all around. Bodies were falling in rows around me. I had to crawl from beneath three dead men who fell upon me in the same second."

He begins to cry and is ashamed at his emotion and turns away. Once composed, he speaks again. "So you see these bones about me. These are my friends and neighbours. Among them somewhere is my brother." He bends down and picks up a faded ID card. "I knew this one well. He was 25 years old and his family and mine were old friends." He walks away, stooping beside the jumbled bones in his quest.

A single Serb, the commission representative from the opposite side, is present in the clearing. He says that all the dead are soldiers killed in action. There is a woman's skull, still with long blonde hair, near his feet, and a child's toy frog, yet he will not be moved from his opinion.

At last someone halts his monologue and asks: "If all these thousands died in battle, then where are the prisoners?" The Serb pauses then looks at the ground. "That is a good question," he says, and walks away.

Members of the Muslim forensic team carry away remains of some of the victims of Srebrenica yesterday

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Grip on drugs trade would give left-wing guerrillas greater firepower in war to topple Samper

Rebel fighters rule in Colombia's cocaine badlands

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN MOCOA, DISTRICT OF PUTUMAYO, SOUTHERN COLOMBIA

FRESHLY sprayed graffiti depicting the hammer and sickle covered the walls round the central square of the small agricultural town of Mocoa, on the edge of Colombia's southern Amazon region. Its narrow streets were desolate, and people peered fearfully from behind their bolted doors and windows.

The bullet-riddled body of a young soldier lay abandoned on a seat, with a handwritten message pinned to his uniform saying: "The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia are back. We will fight to the end to topple the corrupt Government of President Samper." The electricity supply to the town of 20,000 inhabitants was cut days ago after rebels blew up the power plant in a grenade attack and the modern concrete offices

that belong to the local government were now empty.

With the unpaved airstrip on the outskirts of town under fire constantly, the only access to Mocoa was by bus, across a checkpoint manned by armed guerrillas in battle fatigues.

It seemed like a scene from the Sixties and Seventies, when left-wing guerrilla groups across Latin America fought military regimes and took the armed struggle into rural areas. This time the conflict stems from two left-wing guerrilla groups who renewed their offensive against President Samper a month ago.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN) appear to have regrouped their estimated 15,000 armed fighters and

taken the Government by surprise.

They took over army bases in the southern district of Putumayo — of which Mocoa is the capital — Guaviare and Caquetá, killing more than 120 soldiers and 20 civilians. In the attack on the base in Putumayo, some 400 rebels invaded with machineguns, grenades and mortars. Sixty soldiers captured from the army base at Las Delicias in Caquetá are still being held as hostages by the rebels.

"The guerrillas have taken control of vast areas and forced our security forces to take defensive action. Our forces were unprepared for this," Alfredo Rangel, a government spokesman, has admitted.

In the past week FARC and ELN rebels were reported to



Rebels from the Revolutionary Armed Forces on the march. Their offensive has surprised the Government

be in almost total control of most of the remote Amazonian lowland areas which make up southern Colombia, and were also launching attacks on central highland areas close to the country's main cities. The military says the guer-

illas are acting in response to recent government efforts to destroy coca-leaf crops, used in the manufacture of cocaine, in the south. FARC makes money by providing armed protection to plantations and has in some areas moved into

arranging drug shipments. Attempts to eradicate coca fields have led in past weeks to violent protests by the coca farmers or campesinos, and in most cases the guerrillas backed, and probably orchestrated, demonstrations.

The Defence Minister, Juan Carlos Espartero, says that the recent revival of the guerrilla campaign is particularly worrying because rebels have moved into cocaine-producing jungle areas and will have more firepower if they can

take control of the drug trade. "They can fund a more vicious campaign and buy more sophisticated weapons with the help of cocaine money," he said.

In towns like Mocoa, where most of the population once worked in oilfields — now exhausted — and then turned to planting coca, the guerrillas are gathering support.

"The FARC is defending our cause. We have also been neglected by the Government up in the highlands," said one of the few inhabitants of the town who ventured out of his home.

The rebels are also taking advantage of the waning credibility of President Samper's Government, left weak by a spate of allegations that his 1994 Liberal Party election campaign received funding from the notorious Cali cocaine cartel. Last week Vice-President Humberto de la Calle resigned, saying: "The Government is tainted with cocaine money."

Leading the renewed rebel offensive is a plump mustachioed figure called Jorge Briceño, 40, always pictured wearing battle fatigues and a blue beret. Although trained by veteran FARC rebels, he is not known for his staunch Marxist beliefs and says that the guerrillas' main aim is to bring down the Government.

Butcher to die for massacre of Sikhs

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

A BUTCHER who massacred Sikhs with a meat cleaver in three days of rioting in 1984 has been sentenced to death, one of a small number of people belatedly brought to trial for one of the worst atrocities in modern Indian history.

The anti-Sikh riots came after the murder of Indira Gandhi, then Prime Minister, by her Sikh bodyguards. The Gandhi family has consistently resisted a full investigation into the slaughter. Leading Congress Party politicians egged on the rioters, at times taking to the streets and demanding more deaths. Thousands of Hindu policemen stood by and some of them took part.

Accounts of how many Sikhs died in Delhi and elsewhere in northern India vary widely. Khushwant Singh said in *A History of the Sikhs* that the figure of 10,000, with more than half the victims in the capital, "would not be an exaggeration". After the riots more than 50,000 Sikhs were lodged in refugee camps in Delhi. Between 20,000 and 30,000 families fled their homes and moved to Punjab.

The first convictions are small comfort for the hundreds of widows who live in bleak government flats in the Tilak Vihar district of Delhi, known unofficially as Widows' Colony. All the women filed affidavits years ago detailing the circumstances of their husbands' deaths, but the files simply gathered dust. The names of the ringleaders are common knowledge. Few have been interviewed by the police, let alone arrested.

The recent trials have heard vivid descriptions of the three days of butchery, looting and rape. Witnesses described how the killers took meal breaks in between the slaughter. Men with weapons stood at the exit points of Sikh areas to ensure that nobody escaped while mobs bludgeoned, burnt or knifed to death anybody with a turban, usually in front of their wives and children. The police sometimes turned up to ensure that the killings were going well.

Witnesses described how drains were blocked by bits of bodies and piles of long hair cut from the Sikhs. A journalist saw a three-year-old girl who had crawled from under the bodies of her father and three brothers and was stumbling over other corpses in her one-room home, screaming: "Take me away."

Tormentor maimed as crocodile finally snaps

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

A GIANT crocodile that had been regularly jabbed by a keeper to make it snap its jaws and lash its tail for tourists finally bit off the arm of its tormentor. Now, the owners of the reptile park in Harare face prosecution for cruelty to animals.

Witnesses at Harare Snake

pit and was jabbing it in the stomach with a stick when it struck.

Merryl Harrison, manager of Zimbabwe's Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said she would prosecute the park's owners for cruelty, and was considering seeking an injunction to prevent the animal's destruction.

WORLD SUMMARY

Syria troop movements unnerve US

Jerusalem: Intense American diplomatic efforts were under way yesterday to reduce tension between Israel and Syria prompted by massive Syrian troop movements inside Lebanon (Christopher Walker writes). The Israeli Army has been put on a state of alert.

Last night, Israeli sources said that the United States was especially anxious to restore calm, out of concern that such tension could dramatically destabilise the situation in the Middle East when its latest stand-off with Iraq has not yet been resolved.

Spain accused of 'Mengele' tests

Madrid: The Spanish Defence Ministry has declined to comment on a report that intelligence agents kidnapped vagrants in order to test drugs for use in the abduction of Basque separatists. *El Mundo* claimed that agents called the experiments Operation Mengele in reference to Josef Mengele, the Nazi death-camp doctor. (Reuters)

Mother Teresa stable after fall

Calcutta: Mother Teresa was alert, cheerful and in a stable condition yesterday as she recovered from a fall the previous day, doctors said. They added that a brain scan had shown no cause for alarm. The Roman Catholic nun, 86, who won the Nobel Peace Prize, will be kept under observation. (Reuters)

Public execution in the Comoros

Moroni: A man convicted of murdering a pregnant woman was publicly executed by an army firing squad in the Comoro islands in the Indian Ocean. Ali Yousouf, 25, was given a bottle of soft drink at his request before being tied to a post at the port in the capital, Moroni. (Reuters)

Ethiopia puts its fleet up for sale

Addis Ababa: Left without a coast after Eritrea won independence in 1993, Ethiopia is selling off its 16-vessel naval fleet. Eritrea is likely to win the bidding, but Djibouti, where the 16 vessels are at anchor, is among those to have made an offer. (AP)



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Comedian David Baddiel reveals why he likes talking about sex; Nigella Lawson says that we talk about it too much

The confessions of a bit of a lad

David Baddiel believes people won't be offended by his first novel. Interview by Mary Riddell

The net curtain picture worried David Baddiel. Prominently displayed on the cover of the proof copy of his new novel, the illustration had been printed in a smaller form on the final version.

Mr Baddiel scrutinised the result with the dismay of someone whose expensive sweater has shrunk to tea-cosy dimensions in the boiler-wash. "If the cover is not quite what you want, it's a problem. People will think: 'Oh, David Baddiel hasn't got a very good cover on his book.' Do you know what I mean?"

Up to a point. The presentation of his first novel, *Time For Bed*, seems unlikely to offend the most ardent aesthete. Its contents are less anodyne: pornographic videos, masturbation, anal sex. Behind the imperfect net curtains lurks the predictable repertoire of post-laddish culture.

"I've always had a confessional streak in me and I've never had a problem with talking very openly about sex," he says. "I have a kind of gap in my soul where I don't worry about what I should say."

It would be unfair to suggest that Mr Baddiel's book is in the same genre as A.A.Gill's sexually-charged *Sap Rising*, subject of the greatest critical patsch in the chronicles of contemporary fiction. On the other hand, while Mr Gill is scarcely an icon of youth, Mr Baddiel — co-presenter with Frank Skinner of television's *Fantasy Football* and author of *Three Lions On A Shirt* — is a universal hero to those who have recently outgrown Santa Claus and not yet acquired a taste for Oasis.

He is like most comedians, more angst-ridden than he would care to appear. The look is casual but there is something in his manner — a pout of cherubic lips when the phone rings, a peremptory way with his publicist — which suggest that working with him is a fraught business.

"Yes, I am quite difficult. I don't like pissing people off but if I think that something should be done in a certain way, I am insistent." His previous partnership, with Rob Newman in *The Mary Whitehouse Experience* and later in their own show, fell



David Baddiel: "I have a gap in my soul where I don't worry about what I should say."

apart because they grew to loathe each other.

His double act with Frank Skinner, who lives in Mr Baddiel's Hampstead flat, has proved more enduring, al-

though for now their television partnership is at an end. "Me and Frank are very close friends. We had big rows during *Fantasy Football* but there's been less of the major tantrum stuff."

From the beginning, he was attuned to a life of dissent. His father, who used to be a Unilever scientist and now sells Dinky cars in a London antiques market, was "very left-wing" and Baddiel adopted his views.

At Cambridge, where he achieved a double first in English, he combined radical politics with the Nick Hornby-inspired blokeish *Zeitgeist* in which soccer and intellectualism were first deemed compatible. "I was part of various Marxist groups but I always used to be interested in football as well," he says. "I had a few mates in the football team and I was really looked down on by people on the Left."

Hence, perhaps, his current scorn for politics and politicians. "I've never voted, ever. The people I knew at Cambridge who became politicians were all second-rate minds."

Similarly, he avoided comedy centred on political correctness and Tory-bashing — "too Stoke Newington". Only football, such a lucrative vein for new lads and emergent comics, remained a passion. A Chelsea supporter, Baddiel is sanguine about the occasional anti-Jewish chants at Stamford Bridge. "Yiddo," he thinks, may safely be inter-

preted as an amicable greeting from well-disposed fans.

There is much in his novel which is less easy to explain away. In part autobiographical and in part very funny, its overload of sex reflects the drearier side of blokeishness.

Baddiel (naturally) does not think he has overstepped the borders of humour and good taste. "The problem with laddishness is when it becomes self-conscious. Frank and I happened to arrive at a time when males were a bit ashamed of being male. We've never tried to exaggerate our maleness or to be graphically ugly about sex to prove how masculine we are."

On the contrary, he is proud of his juvenile following, believing that children are the first barometer of good comedy. His producer at *Fantasy Football* is, he says, currently reading the novel as a bedtime story to his sons, aged 14 and 12. "I'm not sure it's suitable for kids of that age but I honestly don't think it's gratuitous either."

Whatever your view, it is safe to say that Baddiel's life diverges from that of his fictional hero. He has a long-term relationship with Sarah, a TV producer, who is 22 and ten years his junior. "I can't tell you her surname. Sorry," he says coyly. But you've written it in the frontpiece of the book. "Oh yes. So I did." But more relevant than the

The last time I wrote about sex and celibacy, my words were later — and gratifyingly in one sense — blown up on posters as part of an advertising campaign for the newspaper for which I then wrote and pasted all over the Underground. I mention this not to draw attention to myself, but rather to draw attention to the danger of writing about the subject, namely that it is hard to escape being inexpressibly vulgar. To sound off at all is to risk at best indelicacy and at worst grossness.

Such sensitivity about even broaching this culture of carnality is, I admit, telling. The conclusion I draw is that we are still embarrassed about sex. The dawning of the age of Aquarius and the supposed loosening of inhibitions, unravelling of taboos and radical change in sexual mores do not alter anything: it's still a nudge-nudge subject.

Openness changes nothing: if anything, it makes things worse. Certainly, on the evidence of the latest reaction to the missing Roman Catholic bishop and the simultaneous disappearance of his female parishioner, it would be hard to detect any maturity in our discussion of sex and celibacy. We remain obsessed.

The doings or not of the Catholic Church are in some senses a matter apart: certainly to most people they are irrelevant. But for all that, the enforced celibacy of Catholic clergy is not entirely beside the point. Although initially required by the Church as a way of safeguarding property, it is also the case that celibacy is equated with purity and cleanliness and next-to-Godliness. Therein lies much of the seediness of the Catholic Church; it believes in sin, in the corruption of the ways of the flesh — and doesn't that make it all more exciting?

Those of us who have no business opining about the strictures of this or any other Church are still, culturally, influenced by this ethos. And that's what we seem to want. After all, the logical extension of the permissive society

How sex and celibacy lead to obsession

Society is still sniggering and repressed, despite the openness

should be that none of this is even a subject. Openness, or so the generation or so before mine zealously promised, would usher in a free society, uninhibited, unembarrassed and honest about sex. No more sniggering, no more smirking: we were going to be grown up at last.

But it hasn't happened. Rather, the sniggering has become endemic. If losing inhibitions means nothing more than a disrespect for privacy and a grotesque fascination with "bookings" then we have lost more than inhibitions.

The truth, of course, is that we haven't lost these inhibitions: we just feel we should act as if we have, and that is bound to create a confused society. We are bombarded with more and more openly sexual images — ice-cream, that essentially infantile foodstuff, is now purveyed as a post-coital pleasure — and yet we are becoming, at the same time, belligerently puritanical. What else explains the growth of the sexual harassment claim? No one now seems to be able to see when sexual behaviour is appropriate. On the one hand, we're told it always is, on the other never.

And really, the doing away with the old sexual taboos has simply seen the emergence of a new sexual taboo. Everyone is anxious

to show that they're at it all the time. In an age when every celebrity rushes to show that they have problems with drugs, problems with drink, difficulties with love and marriage, with weight and with self-esteem, no one wants to own up to difficulties with sex. Sexual confidence has taken the place of honour: no one wants to be seen to be without it. But if sex has to turn into some sort of performance art, no wonder there are movements — emanating, wouldn't you know, from California — towards celibacy.

The cynical might pinpoint this great crusade as just an instance of making a virtue out of a necessity, but however you look at it, it is surely symptomatic of this age of extremes. Sex has to be either everything or nothing.

What's more, it all has to be done in the open. People brag about having sex, and brag about abstaining from it. But on the whole, no one is really convinced about the glories of abstinence. But if it is on the increase, one of the reasons is that sex gets ever more complicated. It's not just Aids, but that no one now knows what the rules are. No one knows, or can own up to, what messages they want to give. To be thought of as sexy is both an honour and an insult.

Take clothes: the tartier

the wardrobe, the more the wearer insists that the intention is not to give sexual messages and the more offended she is that such a thing could even be construed. These days it is considered fine to wear a see-through shirt in public or a dress that shows your knickers but quite beyond the pale to give a wolf-whistle. I'm not saying that wearing a mini-skirt is tantamount to asking to be raped (I make this protestation weakly because I am prepared for the inevitable angry attack) but I do say that a degree of honesty would be welcome. But this confusion about sexual messages is indistinct from the confusion about sex itself.

In the Sixties and Seventies, everyone thought they had invented sex and, because of that, had to be doing it all the time. (And it's the ones who came of age then who are now sliding, somehow, into a strangely celebrated celibacy.) In the Eighties, we were luckier: we had nothing to prove to society and so we could get on with our private lives in private. Now, in the Nineties, sex has become an issue again. On the one hand there's Aids, on the other the anxious sense that every action is open to scrutiny. Added to which, a generation of women has been told that to be sexually provocative is to be strong, but to be sexually active is to be weak, to be potentially a victim. The argument doesn't tally — that's just the problem.

But there is so much pressure on people to be rapaciously sexual now, that those who are beginning their adult life are frightened off before they start. A 21-year-old told me that a defensive and not entirely desired celibacy was the norm for most of her student friends. Social life is lived through endless drinks and clubbing with the girls. Quite frankly, the super-saturation of sex that swamps society appears to have led to as much repression as the buttoned-upness that constrained it earlier.



Nigella Lawson

MEDIA

● Maggie Brown on television's obsession with the supernatural

Section 2, page 3f

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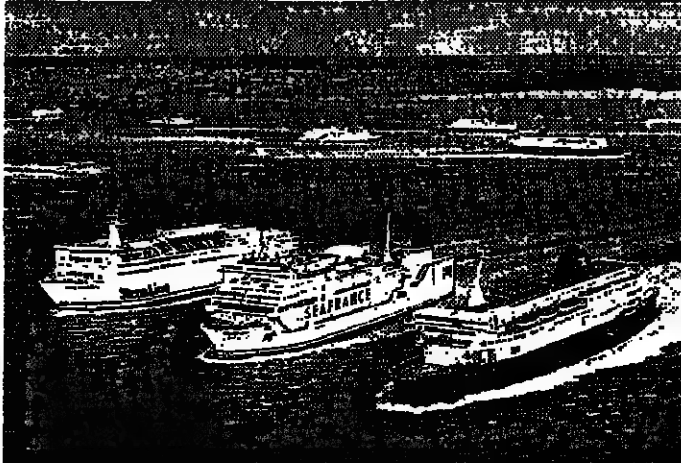
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Alan Coren



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After my recent sour lucubrations about my insurance companies, I am truly delighted, this morning, to put on record my indebtedness to Legal & General. Without them, I should have had no idea of my family's indebtedness to me. My family owes me £2,104 for last week alone.

I have been able to arrive at this precise figure thanks to the precise figures totted up in L & G's recent report, *Value of a Dad*. Last Monday, a quiet member of the family, on a flying visit to mix itself a gin and tonic, shut the outer freezer door without shutting the inner flap over the ice-compartment. This caused it to snap off. When I rang Bosch, Bosch said it would come from Hayes and fix it, for £83.99. The £3.99 was for the flap. Flap-fixers were £80 an hour. I left for Hayes. Hayes is not easy to find. It takes £160 to find Hayes. After you have found Hayes, it takes another £80 to find Bosch and give them £3.99 for a flap which you have to take back to Crickwood in order to find out that it is for a different model, and will have to be replaced at Hayes, which, fortunately, is now only £80 away because you are getting used to finding it. By Monday night, the flap was back on, for only £483.99. Monday night, however, was not yet over, because Monday night was when we wanted to watch a film I had taped the night before, but when I set the VCR in motion, the VCR made a funny little rattle, so we went to bed.

Up bedtimes on Tuesday to ring Granada TV's service department, to learn that they could not come out before Wednesday, but since I am a dab hand at funny little rattles — only last week, rather than throw away £40 per hour of a trained motor-mechanic's time to sort out my wife's exhaust-pipe, I crawled under her car to secure it with piano wire in hardly more than £100, so that it could fall off the next day and enable her to enjoy the diverting badinage of a trained motor-mechanic who swore he thought a low-flying Tornado was driving into his garage — I soon set about dismantling the VCR myself, at about £200, to find out why it was rattling. We were thus able to watch the film on Friday, because that was the earliest Granada could come out, after I rang them on Wednesday.

I don't know how I found time to ring them on Wednesday, mind, given the fact that the mower had to have its annual strip-down and clean for the winter, for which you could be charged £50 by a professional taking an hour to do it, say £300 by an amateur, to include £75 combing the shrubbery for one of those filthy carburettor springs that fly out as soon as you even look at them and cost £100.69 from Quakast dealers an hour's drive from Crickwood. But Thursday was a lot better. Thursday went very smoothly, I could have sent in a bill for £650 on Thursday night, you would not believe what a plumber would charge just for clearing out a garage to find his rods so that he could ream a drain which would turn out to be not responsible for causing blockage to a waste-disposal which, even when removed with a King Dick wrench expressly bought for the purpose from a distant builder's merchant which shuts for lunch, refused either to give up its secrets or go back on again without leaking through the rubber sealing-ring which, for some unwhomable reason, is designed to shred if inadvertently overtightened with a King Dick wrench.

I'd rather not tell you about Friday, which would of course be pay-day if anybody was paying anything, except to say that, according to *Value of a Dad*, my notional brown envelope deserved to contain a further £370: you know what a glazier would charge to repair a garage window that has had a plumber's rod through it, especially when the first pane of glass he brings back from the cutter turns out to be 4mm wider than the frame, and the second one 4mm longer. I tell you, a man's work is never done. Never paid for, either.



"AND DO LEAD ME INTO TEMPTATION..."

Devil take the rejects

Schools need to cater for all — which means they must remain comprehensive

All books about schools are about class. All books about the curriculum are about the good old days. Just below the surface, we yearn for the status and certainty of the past. We can wax radical about industry, pollution or the fate of the Kurds. We can tear down and rebuild communities. But around our offsprings we build forts, ramparts and drawbridges, to keep out the harlot Progress and the forces of social decline and moral decay. For our children we want it like it was for us. We want a better yesterday.

This week three more books are added to the growing shelf. All respond to 15 years of anarchy in state education with depressing diagnoses and reactionary prescriptions. It is clear that progress in British education is dead, damned and gone to hell. Tom Brown is back at school and Smike is in the gutter with his ilk. Arnold of Rugby rules the roost.

George Walden's *We Should Know Better* proposes to solve the "education crisis" with a return to selective secondary schools under the guise of reopening the direct grant list. He wants private schools to take government money to admit bright pupils from the state sector. He says that this would untie popular independent schools with revered grammar schools. Walden is avowedly elitist. He wants to break down barriers between the upper and lower middle classes so as to broaden their social outlook and make them "less open to commercial and political manipulation". Walden calls his schools Open Schools, though open is the one thing they are not. He is unconcerned with what all this means for less mortals.

The Conservative peer Robert Skidelsky has no time for Walden's social engineering. In a tract for Politika, he declares himself led up with the *dirigisme* of Tory education policy. He sees in the ceaseless reforms of curriculum and structure a panicky tossing of bon-bons to a few floating voters. To him, education is a consumer service supplied by the State on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. He would make parents power effective by reviving the voucher proposal of the early 1980s. His vouchers would be "weighted" towards lower income parents (though not lower ability children). The result would be Walden by a different route: better secondary schools for cleverer children, topped up with private money. At least Skidelsky's

sink schools would be rich, albeit at a huge price to the Treasury. Melanie Phillips, in *All Must Have Prizes*, shows some concern for the rejects. She comes at the problem from a different angle. Her Britain is in the grip of a Black Death of corruption and immorality (a common belief among those with teenage children). She puts this down to a lethal cocktail of Thatcherite materialism and progressive education. Maths and grammar are disappearing down the plughole along with family cohesion and childhood innocence. The Tory obsession with the values of the balance sheet has joined forces with the cultural relativism of the Left to destroy the building blocks of the culture, she writes. Liberalism has no answer. We must go back "to rediscover our common humanity" in the old authoritarianism.

What these books show is that while we know what armies and hospitals are for, we do not know what schools are for. When Kenneth Baker introduced his great reform Act ten years ago, he pretended to offer parents what they wanted, schools what they wanted and industry what it wanted. The result was a mess. Parents would choose schools (open enrolment), but schools would also choose parents (selection). The Government cited manpower planning and business needs as guides to the curriculum, yet it imposed a national curriculum skewed to traditional grammar subjects. It wanted diverse types of school but offered academic league tables that mocked diversity.

Then this year John Major said he was against "a return to 11-plus selection", yet wanted "a grammar school in every town". Nothing added up. Not since Balacova has a profession been given a more confused set of battle orders. Small wonder teachers spend half their time up the wrong valley, enduring withering fire from their critics. English secondary schools were traditionally divided into three categories, for the working, middle and upper-

middle classes. The most determined attempt to bridge the gap was academic selection for some (very few) working-class children to grammar schools under the 1944 Act. This bred such resentment among the rejected in the secondary moderns that the system collapsed in the 1960s. The subsequent reorganisation of secondary schools into local comprehensives was the one effort ever made to break down this class system, at least within the state-financed sector.

We need to remember yet again that this reorganisation was popular — so much so that Margaret Thatcher, as Education Secretary, never thought to turn the clock back. Still today, over most of the country outside big cities and certainly outside London, the comprehensive structure has proved robust. Despite vastly increased disposable income, the number of parents opting for private education has risen only from 5 per cent to 7 per cent since 1965. School referendums on selection have shown — and Skidelsky accepts — that there is no great call for a return to the 11-plus segregation of the 1944 Act. It is a mystery why Walden should want to revive the tensions, jealousies and deteriorating standards in the reject schools to benefit pupils who even today are doing well.

Skidelsky is a free-marketier, a breed of knight errant now increasingly short of worthwhile joists. At least he is clear in treating education as a consumer good which should merely respond to parental demand. But he does not explain why the State need subsidise this form of consumption, for the answer must surely determine the allocation of subsidy. He implies that it is the nation's need for a well-trained workforce. But on that basis, 20 years of relatively progressive curriculums in British and American comprehensive schools would

be judged a success — for all the present effort to denigrate them.

None of these books hazards a clear objective for the education service. They wander between national competitiveness, a pupil's ability to perform internal tests, and vague assertions of "what parents want". American comprehensive secondary education sets great store by seeking community cohesion through local schools. It sees external benefits in children being together for as long as makes educational sense in a common institution close to family and neighbourhood. No British educationist seems to care about this. American comprehensives have been sneered at by British traditionalists, but they have done no harm to American society, the family or the economy. For all the proclaimed failings of America's progressive teaching, its labour force remains vital and adaptable.

British comprehensives were sabotaged, as Phillips graphically illustrates, not by their non-selective transfer at 11 but by a coincidental collapse of professional discipline on the part of teachers. This was a historic tragedy. Discipline is now being restored, hamfistedly, by central government diktat. But to use this as justification for a return to a divisive secondary system, as advocated by Walden and Skidelsky, would be absurd. It would be the educational equivalent of returning to the gold standard.

The test of an education service must be an ability to add value to what parents can do on their own: to help to produce economically active and honest citizens, able to lead stimulating and fulfilled lives in a community. If the service, and its critics, cannot test performance against these objectives, that is sad. But we cannot regard "key stage three" or GCSE or A-level passes as proxies. Such tests measure little more than a facility for passing them. Some teachers may claim they predict a facility in the "exam of life". If so they should find some means to prove it.

The evidence of these books is that British state secondary schools have given up on innovation, research or experiment and are in professional retreat. Over the past two decades, university entry has soared and the Government declares that British economic performance is supreme in Europe. Yet the schools that feed this great engine have lost all confidence. Small wonder that parents too are in retreat and Smike is quaking in his gutters.

Simon Jenkins

Slow to chide their ex-bishop

Scots are sorry for Roddy Wright, says Magnus Linklater

Roderick Wright, Roman Catholic Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, was the kind of priest any church would be proud of — as a spiritual guide, a source of energy, and a human being. He was unstuffy, charming, excellent company. Yesterday he was remembered by his congregation at St Columba's in Oban as a good listener and a splendid communicator, whose sermons were rich in wisdom and good sense. That he has been undone by the very warmth and gregariousness which were among his most attractive qualities has evoked sympathy rather than condemnation. "He was a good man," was one typical comment, "but he was human like the rest of us..."

Like the rest of us... there's the rub. The very point of celibacy is that it should place a priest at one remove from his flock, enabling him to concentrate on the work of God, free of the distractions to which the rest of us are prone. Thus he can be a rock of support to those in need of help, while remaining aloof from emotional entanglements. "For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more," wrote St Paul to the Corinthians. For some 900 years or more (most people date the strict rules on single priests to the 11th century) the Roman Catholic Church has placed celibacy on a high moral pedestal for precisely these reasons.

That is the theory, and that, despite the stumbling of Bishop Wright, will remain, for the time being at least, the Vatican's firm rule. Not the least of its reasons will be financial: the notion of the single priest goes hand in hand with a frugality which would appal even the underpaid vicars of the Anglican Church. If Rome were to change its stance and allow its clergy to marry, the financial burden of supporting wives and families might drive it to bankruptcy.

But the virtues of celibacy are under assault in this age of carnal knowledge. The bishop is only the latest in a long list of the fragile and susceptible within the Catholic Church who have found the temptations of the flesh hard to resist, and equally hard to ignore. Bombarded from every side with what Cardinal Basil Hume calls society's "endless obsession" with sex, the vulnerable priest can begin to feel that it is he rather than the libertine who is the freak. As Cardinal Hume points out, the emphasis on sexual achievement raises false expectations of what is required for human happiness, and the loneliness to which so many single priests are exposed only widens the gulf between them and the outside world.

Just as tempting, perhaps for the middle-aged priest is the lure of a comforting relationship. In the same speech, last weekend, Cardinal Hume paid tribute to "the health of the family" and added: "The nurturing of children is the most primitive and profound human endeavour." It is not surprising that so many servants of his Church who embark on a celibate priesthood with the best of intentions find themselves unable to resist the companionship. There is also the excitement of a forbidden liaison. Straw polls in Argyll yesterday suggested a remarkable absence of condemnation of Bishop Wright's behaviour. That may perhaps stem from a longstanding Scottish tradition of tolerance which goes back to the 18th-century Enlightenment and beyond, and which contrasts strongly with the grim image most people have of a straitlaced and bigoted Kirk. It may also, however, reflect an instinctive understanding of human frailty.

But it would be wrong to conclude that one bishop's fall from grace will undermine the Church's stance on celibacy. Cardinal Thomas Winning, head of the Catholic Church in Scotland and sometimes spoken of as a future candidate for the papacy, is a staunch traditionalist, unbending on birth control, celibacy and divorce. He has already made it clear that, sympathetic as he is towards "Bishop Roddy", there will be no compromise on principle. "If we don't set high ideals and standards, then we are not much of a Church," he said.

And of course there is much to be said for maintaining standards in an age of crumbling ideals. Bending the rules on celibacy might only be the first step in a retreat from the certainties which have always been the Catholic Church's great strength. For every stumbling bishop there are a thousand priests serving their congregations with uncompromising self-denial, obedient to Paul's precept that "they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel".

Perhaps, however, there is another approach. The Church is losing thousands of potential young priests who find they cannot contemplate the unmarried life, and who turn elsewhere rather than fall at the first hurdle. There may be an argument for creating a special order of married priests, rather like those of the Greek Church, a minority one, perhaps operating at a junior level, but nevertheless sanctioned by the Vatican. This would maintain the notion of discipline, so important to Catholics, while at the same time recognising the realities of modern life.

This may not be heresy. It was, after all, St Paul himself who wrote in his epistle to Timothy that a bishop should be "blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach". It is a precept that might well have kept Bishop Roddy within the Church.



Bremner looking the part

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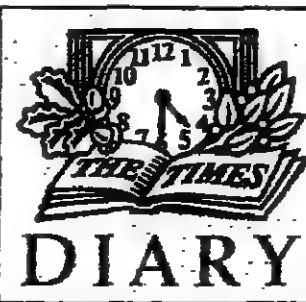
GERMAINE GREER is sound-biting about opera. She loves it, but cannot understand why opera houses should be given public money when football clubs are not. In an article for the November issue of *BBC Music Magazine* she concludes: "Opera is less rather than more deserving of public subsidy than football."

I wonder whether she was pursuing her argument with Sir Jeremy Isaacs, the general director of the Royal Opera House, when he entertained her in his box on Saturday night for a performance of *La Bohème*.

Speak up

AN APPEAL has gone out from the London offices of Rory Bremner, impressionist and cricketer. He wants information on the Prince of Wales's horse friend Camilla Parker Bowles — what she sounds like, details of her mannerisms and so forth — so that he can incorporate her into his new series.

Now Bremner is fastidious in his research and spends many hours lunching with the politi-



Goldsmith discussing his Referendum Party in the graveyard segment of the show after 8.30.

Perversely, this is part of Sir James's strategy: insiders at the party say that he insists on appearing last on news programmes. By doing so, he has been advised, he can prevent anyone responding to his tirades.

Elsewhere in the bunker, they have settled on a theme tune for the party: the music from the film *The Mission*. This is a grandiose piece, redolent of crashing waterfalls, swirling condors, down-trodden natives, martyrdom and the triumph of the human spirit. Nor that Sir James and his groupies are the sorts to over-egg their own importance.

Norma Major is taking her roadshow to a mecca for housewives. Later this month, she will host a tea at Selfridges in Oxford

night in his West End nightclub to launch his autobiography was Terry Major-Ball, the Prime Minister's brother. Terry claimed to be new to the nightclub world, and to have come to the party on a stage. "Not really, my scene," he said, "but surprisingly, he didn't leave until 4 am."

To the wall

ADDING a little practical experience to his beat, the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, recently joined coppers on night patrol in Huddersfield. A quiet evening really, until the assembled hand stumbled across a wall covered in graffiti. "Howard out!" they read, and "Howard must go".

The Home Secretary reportedly dismissed the criticism as just a minor irritant. Nevertheless, he was relieved when Keith Hellawell, the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, gripped him reassuringly by the arm: "They don't mean you, they mean Howard Wilkinson, manager of the Leeds football team." Wilkinson has since lost his job.

No arguing

LISTENERS to Monday morning's *Today* programme may have been surprised to hear Sir James

Telling all

THE COUNTRY is against you, your Cabinet is in revolt: in whom can a Prime Minister confide? According to Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, there is no better cure for a fevered mind than a gossip with the Queen — the Marjorie Proops to our political leaders.

A BBC documentary to be screened on Sunday contains interviews with five former Prime Ministers, who talk of the minutiae of the job. Callaghan waxes enthusiastically about his weekly audiences with Her Majesty.

"One could discuss openly with the Queen matters that one would not even discuss with one's colleagues," he tells. Michael Cockwell in his programme *How to be a Prime Minister*: "Personal matters, relations with other Cabinet colleagues to others... I'm not talking about matters of great policy: now, I'm talking about the personal side of the prime minister'ship."

"Well, the Queen was always very interested in that kind of relationship, and one could unburden oneself to her and I don't think I'm betraying confidences, when I say I think that there were occasions when she could talk to me about her personal issues, and

probably to other Prime Ministers too, in a much more easy way than perhaps she could talk to with others."

The programme also reveals Harold Wilson's desperate endeavour to assassinate Idi Amin, a plan thwarted by the Foreign Office, which eventually persuaded him that the country could not muster anybody sufficiently skilled for the job.

● The surprise celebrity at Peter Stringfellow's party on Monday





THE PURPOSE OF PRIESTS

Celibacy may be reviewed but not easily abandoned

To those outside the frontiers of its faith the practice of celibacy among the Roman Catholic priesthood has long been a matter of comment — by no means all of it flattering. Celibacy is not a law of God but a law of the Church, formalised from the Second Lateran Council of 1139. It could equally be ended by a future Pope or General Council and, on any occasion when the behaviour of an individual reveals its imperfections, the whole institution is brought into question.

It is not difficult to see why such a move might be contemplated following the current case of the Right Rev Roderick Wright, departed Bishop of Argyll and the Isles. Although there is minimal pressure for change from Catholic laity, the church hierarchy has to confront the alleged consequences of the rule. Recruitment to the priesthood has been a cause of concern for some decades. Cardinal Hume has acknowledged that many excellent people find themselves disbarred from their calling by the demands of chastity. Possibly 2,000 priests in Britain alone may have left their parishes to enter personal relationships.

That enforced loss appears especially unnecessary now that Rome has accepted the conversions of many hundreds of married Anglicans and permitted them to preach after reconsecration. Although the extent of disobedience may well be exaggerated, the rule is flouted in large sections of the developing world. If celibacy were responsible for the gradual destruction of the Church in Europe while exposing it to charges of hypocrisy elsewhere, then its continuation could not be justified.

That case, however, is far from proven. The Church of England too, despite the option of marriage for its clergy, has suffered a fall in the numbers entering its ranks. Organised religion has been challenged of late by a crisis of faith and culture of self-satisfying materialism throughout the Western world. Eliminating celibacy alone

is unlikely to combat such forces. Indeed it could be viewed as a capitulation to them. Furthermore, while the vow of perfect chastity has only been mandatory since the 12th century, it has served as an ideal since the very founding of the Church, encouraged by the life of Christ Himself, certain interpretations of St Matthew's Gospel, and recognised from the decretal of Pope Siricius in AD 385. This is not some strange bylaw adopted in a mad medieval moment but one integral to the history and development of Catholicism.

It has also become part of what is distinctive about the Church. Dedication to celibacy, along with the allied embrace of poverty, have created a priesthood which leads an essentially monastic lifestyle in the outside world. That distance, and the extraordinary discipline it demands, is fundamental to the standing of the clergy in the eyes of most Catholics. This quality thus grants a special spiritual status to its holders in the eyes of their congregations. If priests acquired families, many of the present arrangements for their funding would become impractical. The Church would be starkly divided between those inside and outside monastic life. The results of that would be uncertain. Were the rules to be relaxed, and if no great numbers of new priests emerged, the loss would be huge.

Circumstances may force this question on to the Catholic agenda. Ultimately Rome might have to follow the Orthodox example, under which priests may marry before ordination but bishops must be celibate. Yet it is not a change that can be lightly embraced. It goes right to the principle of the purpose of priests. Instinctive conservatism is legitimate. The Church of England abruptly abandoned celibacy in 1549 thus legitimising the marriage of Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury. Roman Catholics should not allow the sad affair of Bishop Wright to provoke similarly hasty decisions.

CHURCHILL IN ZURICH

A speech that rippled around the world

Of the great series of speeches in which Winston Churchill set out his thinking on the postwar world, none has been more persistently mined for thoughts it scarcely entertained than his call, 50 years ago tomorrow at the University of Zurich, for a United States of Europe. There is no disputing the central thesis of the Zurich speech. It fits, along with the great Fulton "Iron Curtain" speech earlier in 1946, into Churchill's central postwar preoccupations — the imperative of Anglo-American co-operation to deter Soviet expansion; the bonding together of the democracies at the United Nations and other institutions, to avert another war; and what he was to call at Zurich, citing Gladstone, a "blessed act of oblivion" in Europe to cover "the injuries of the past".

Europeans, he said at Zurich, must "recreate the European fabric, or as much of it as we can, and provide with a structure under which it can dwell in peace". To that end he insisted — sensationally, in the raw mood of the times — that "the first step in the recreation of the European family must be a partnership between France and Germany". As we look back over 50 years, these proposals read as the signposts to Western Europe's subsequent recovery. The pity is that in British politics, an audacious and visionary speech has been crawled over ever since for one reason alone: the anxiety of those on both sides of the arguments over Europe to claim Churchill for their cause.

Where Churchill actually stood is reasonably clear from his conclusion. He saw a United States of Europe as a defence for continental democracies weakened by war and threatened by Moscow's hegemonistic ambitions. He did not include Britain in that category; indeed, he saw Britain and its Commonwealth, the US and — more in hope than in expectation — "Soviet Russia" as the "friends and sponsors of the new Europe".

He foresaw that this Europe would have an essentially federal system; he even expected the old regions that were later to become the German *länder* to join as individual members. Above all, he saw this as the only way for France, in partnership with "a spiritually great Germany", to "recover the moral and cultural leadership of Europe". Churchill intended Britain's "sponsorship" to be active and constructive. The Council of Europe was his idea, set forth at Zurich. But for Churchill, this continental strategy was only part of Britain's postwar task of international institution-building; it could never compete for his loyalties with the association of English-speaking peoples which was for him a "union of hearts". That order of values inspired his opposition, in the early 1960s, to British membership of the Common Market.

The sensation his speech created at the time had little to do with today's controversies about Britain's place in Europe. The British Government disapproved, seeing Churchill's agenda as perilously provocative to Moscow when, as *The Times* approvingly noted, Attlee still believed that it was possible to avert "the division of Europe and the world into two". London was no less irritated by the diplomatic firestorm which his grand idea of reconciliation with Germany ignited in Paris.

British policy towards Europe, *The Times* concluded in 1946, must necessarily be more humdrum: we saw more promise in a Franco-British economic agreement than being negotiated. But with whatever reservations, we could not be blind to Churchill's gift for "meeting a new situation with a bold conception rather than with pedestrian prudence" and for "dropping into the waters of international relations stones whose ripples last long and travel far". Fifty years later, the water is still moving.

REMEMBERED IN GLASS

A Shropshire Lad in Westminster Abbey

No poet is easier to parody than A.E. Housman. "What, still alive at 22 — a clean, upstanding chap like you?" began one noted spoof. His taut, terse verse harking back deceptively to ballads and ditties, his rural persona, and obsessive introspection — all make him a powerful and instantly recognisable voice. It is a century ago that *A Shropshire Lad* was first published, and 60 years ago since his death. Yesterday's unveiling of a memorial window in Westminster Abbey honours his enduring popularity and the influence he has had on generations of poets, writers and politicians.

Housman was a passionate and repressed man, whose emotional frustration found outlet in two great bursts of poetry and in the pursuit of classical scholarship. Withdrawing into a melancholic and self-imposed misanthropy, he nevertheless wrote some of the most enduring lines in English, remembered for their gentleness and their loveliness. The Victorians were deceived by the mask of pastoral naivety, and it still comes as a shock to many that this son of a solicitor scarcely ever visited Shropshire, and used the county merely as a metaphor, a mental landscape.

A Shropshire Lad became one of the most widely read books of poetry ever published,

touching a generation with nostalgia that stops just short of maudlin sentimentality, and accompanying thousands of soldiers into war. Few at the time knew the deep loneliness and sorrow from which he drew inspiration, his unrequited infatuation with a fellow undergraduate, Moses Jackson. This passion was to inspire another cycle of verse years later when he heard that Jackson, by then married was dying.

Housman himself acknowledged the role of emotion in the genesis of poetry, in his celebrated 1933 lecture *The Name and Nature of Poetry*. Housman always insisted that he could no more define poetry than a terrier could define a rat; but he knew it when he saw it. Such views and the verse they engendered were, for a generation, scorned by the Leavis school of English. But the man and his poetry have seen a revival, spurred perhaps by the fascination with this shy recluse who wore his unorthodox emotion on his sleeve; who failed his Oxford Latin finals but went on to become one of the most implacable professors of Classics at London and Cambridge; and who left a masterful five-volume edition of the Roman poet Manilius and a collection of pornography to his university and poems that still speak to the heart.

Accountability of Rimington's MI5

From the Director of Liberty

Sir, I was fascinated to read Stella Rimington's account of her work (articles, September 16, 17). What interested me most was how she dealt with the critics of the way MI5 has operated. She is wrong if she continues to think that the critics of the Security Service are all "conspiracy theorists for whom the service is the tool of a repressive state". Many of us have genuine concerns about the ability of an internal secret police service to ever be sufficiently transparent and accountable to merit a place in a democratic society which is not at war.

I have no idea whether the Security Service was involved in "destabilising governments". I do know that Liberty was subject to unwarranted surveillance by the service because Cathy Massiter, one of its ex-employees, revealed this (report, February 22, 1985). I also know that the information she revealed allowed my colleagues to succeed with their case in the European Commission of Human Rights (report, April 27, 1990), which in turn led to the Government putting the service on a statutory footing and setting up a complaints procedure. Our continued criticism of the service is not based on conspiracy theory but rather on principles of openness, accountability, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

Unfortunately the most recent changes in the Security Service Act 1996 do nothing to improve the service's ability to meet these principles and for that reason it was wrong for the service to be given a wider remit allowing it to intervene in areas unrelated to "national security".

During Stella Rimington's time the service did become more open and accountable. I do not think she should be "ostracised and excluded from decent society", but the service needs to go a long way further before it can be accepted as an essential part of a democratic society.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WADHAM,
Director,
Liberty (The National Council for Civil Liberties),
21 Tabard Street, SE1,
September 17.

Excellence in the NHS

From Mr A. E. P. Cameron

Sir, I believe Professor Turner Warwick (letter, September 11) is quite wrong to make special pleading for the funding of tertiary NHS specialist centres.

One of the unsung achievements of the NHS over the last 40 years has been the diffusion of expertise and resources into the district general hospitals. The historic role of the teaching hospitals has therefore declined.

Much good research now emerges from the district hospitals: indeed some of the most spectacular advances in recent years, such as in vitro fertilisation, have come from places well away from "centres of excellence".

Audit shows that the clinical experience provided to trainees and medical students is much greater in district hospitals: finally the care the patients receive is more likely to be consultant-based.

One example will suffice: I was recently asked to take over the care of a patient from Suffolk who was operated on in London 17 years ago. Since the operation he has traipsed up to his teaching hospital every six months to be seen by a succession of harassed junior doctors, none of whom had the courage or insight to discharge him from this unnecessary follow-up.

NHS resources are indeed limited: they should therefore be concentrated where they have been shown to be most effective — at the district general hospital level.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN CAMERON
(Consultant surgeon),
The Ipswich Hospital,
Heath Road,
Ipswich, Suffolk,
September 12.

Cancer treatment

From Dr Mike Fried

Sir, In response to Dr Rosalki's letter of September 10, I would like to make it clear that I do not dismiss the potential of gene therapy in the treatment of cancer by the replacement of the p53 gene. My comments on this matter in your report of August 29, "Bad gene corrected in cancer milestone", may have been open to misunderstanding.

I mentioned that all the patients in the study died because I wanted to emphasise that, although this work was indeed promising, it should not be viewed as a "cure" for cancer, and I explained that more research was now needed to establish ways in which additional therapies could assist in the introduction of the p53 gene into every tumour cell. Unfortunately these comments did not come across in all editions of your report.

Of course gene therapy is a new approach to treating cancer and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund itself has gene therapy trials in progress.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE FRIED
Imperial Cancer Research Fund,
PO Box 123,
Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2,
September 12.

Crisis of morale in the priesthood

From the Reverend Father David W. Barnes

Sir, The question of permanent celibacy for Roman Catholic priests is once again being raised because of the recent events surrounding the Roman Catholic Bishop of Argyll and the Isles (reports, September 16, 17).

The underlying and more important question, however, is not so much whether we should have a married RC clergy, but rather how far anyone, whatsoever, can make a permanent commitment of their life — whether it be in marriage, the priesthood or religious life.

If one cannot make a reliable and permanent life commitment then every decision is negotiable and none is permanent. Fidelity disappears. Hence the situation would arise (and is arising) when no one can rely on anyone absolutely.

As long as we see what has happened to Bishop Wright as an exception, which can occur because of human weakness (to which we are all subject), then we shall keep it in a proper perspective. But if we were to exalt it as to what should be the norm for RC clergy, or still more to see it as a further example that no decision can be for life, then we would miss the point of the dignity and nobility of human nature expressed in and fostered by fidelity to a permanent life-long commitment.

Human nature would thus be diminished, not enhanced.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BARNES
(Parish priest,
St Mary Moorfields),
St Mary's Rectory,
45 Eldon Street, EC2,
September 17.

From the Reverend Father Brian T. Godden

Sir, The question of the morale of the Catholic clergy is raised by your report (September 5) on the National Conference of Priests and by the conference chairman in his letter (September 11). The events of the last few days have brought the problem under the spotlight again.

Our morale is bound to be affected because we are not recruiting new priests in sufficient numbers and some of our colleagues are leaving the ranks, but more especially because Rome and the bishops do not seem to be doing anything about it.

In my diocese there is scarcely a deanery which has not got a parish without a resident priest. Most parishes have been trimmed of their curates. The return of missionaries from abroad has helped to mask the crisis which is looming.

The prospect of parishes without Sunday Mass, no one to baptise the children, lay people having to take

funerals, churches locked and falling into decay is gloomy indeed.

We clergy are mostly growing old together, and the likelihood of having to look after two parishes is not cheerful for one like myself, who is in his seventieth year.

The old clericalist style of the Catholic Church has outgrown its usefulness, but the immediate prospect is somewhat frightening.

Some of the burning issues, such as the ordination of married men and of women, are not even supposed to be discussed.

There is an obvious need for another General Council of the Church, this time to be held away from the influence of the Roman Curia, to finish off the work of the Second Vatican Council.

Yours truly,
B. T. GODDEN
(Parish priest,
Our Lady Immaculate
and St Ethelbert's),
Wellington Street, Slough, Berkshire,
September 17.

From the Reverend Dr Alan C. Clifford

Sir, As a happily married pastor of the Norwich Reformed Church I take a compassionate view of the victims of compulsory priestly celibacy.

Since the Apostle Peter was a married man (Luke iv, 38) and the Apostle Paul assumed the marital status of bishops (1 Timothy iii, 2), would it not be helpful for all concerned if the Church of Rome discarded its rule in favour of authentic apostolic precedent?

If they endorsed such teaching by example, Cardinal Hume and his fellow clergy could then expect their timely calls for sexual discipline and family stability to be more effective.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN C. CLIFFORD,
7 Woodside Park,
Anteborough, Norfolk,
September 16.

From the Reverend Father Bryan Storey

Sir, The written law of clerical celibacy appears in an epistle of Pope Siricius (AD 385), rather earlier than the 11th century mentioned in your report ("Pressure grows on Pope to soften celibacy rule", September 16). The implication is that the obligation is not new but one of long standing.

It is not the relaxation of the law that we should be seeking but a rediscovery of the path to deeper prayer and meditation.

Yours truly,
BRYAN STOREY,
Chy an Proter,
Trewarmeth, Tintagel, Cornwall,
September 16.

Runcie biography: a fitting tribute

From Mr Peter Bottomley, MP for Eilatam (Conservative)

Sir, I regard criticism of *The Times* for publishing extracts, or of the author and Lord Runcie for creating the biography of the former Archbishop, as wrong (letters, September 10, 11, 12).

In his work and in the conversations recorded in Mr Carpenter's biography, Robert Runcie showed how to build relationships outside the Church, to welcome people into the Christian faith, to introduce people to the life of the Church, and to bring new Christians towards maturity.

The way of life of a man who becomes Archbishop is worth writing and reading. I believe it will encourage many in and around the Church of England in faith, in life and in works.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BOTTOMLEY,
House of Commons,
September 14.

From Rabbi Professor Dan Cohn-Sherbok

Sir, The Church of England has cause for rejoicing. In his reminiscences, Lord Runcie has shown the Prince of Wales to be a man deeply interested in spiritual matters.

Such theological concern has not

been demonstrated by a Supreme Governor of the Church of England since the time of King James I.

Yours faithfully,
DAN COHN-SHERBOK,
89 Winchester Court,
Vicarage Gate, W8.

From Mr E. A. Hackford

Sir, In times of sleaze, hypocrisy and backbiting, ought we not to be applauding a biography that portrays a man who speaks honestly with good humour and without malice?

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD HACKFORD,
7 Homewood Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire,
September 14.

From Mrs Georgina Battiscombe

Sir, Lord Runcie, as he now is, when a young officer in action with the Scots Guards, won the Military Cross for his gallantry in pulling a wounded man from a burning tank — hardly the "Woolly breed" of "Canterbury Lamb" shown in your cartoon today.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGINA BATTISCOMBE,
40 Phyllis Court Drive,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire,
September 14.

seems real. The experience can be replicated by touching the bedcovers with the finger tips and "walking" them up one's body with a light pressure.

In my case the sensation runs from toe to chest, which suggests a neural transmission striving to activate the paralysed limbs.

Many years passed before I realised that the alarming heavy breathing coming ever closer and louder from the dark was my own — magnified and growing more threatening and rasping as I struggled to break the paralysis.

During these episodes time stands still and the paralysis seems interminable. In real time the episodes probably last for less than a minute.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET KAMMERER,
17 The Mount Square, NW3,
September 13.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Family guidelines on child discipline

From Mrs Margaret Robinson

Sir, Nigella Lawson ("Smacking problems for step-parents in the new family order", September 11) touched on many of the significant issues about parents' and teachers' right to smack — not assault — children (see also leading article, September 11, and letter, September 12). However, she did not address the wider issue of the step-parental role in the family.

Step-parents need carefully to build their own relationships with their stepchildren: they cannot just slip into a parental role unless the children are very young. Even then they are not likely to have legal parental responsibility which may give them some "rights".

Step-families cannot be the same as nuclear biological families; they require the careful devising of different "family rules" in order to become functional. This depends not only on the age and stage of development of the children at the time when a step-parent enters the family, but also on whether enough time and care has been given to resolving the problems of a separation or divorce. Children must not get caught up in the problems of parental conflict.

Step-parents often have a bad press; but there can be advantages in step-families. One is that the children have a choice of parental models; another that the step-parent may be "uncontaminated" by any negative family history.

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET ROBINSON
(Family therapist and mediator;
parent, step-parent
and step-grandparent),
Merryways, Owslebury,
Winchester, Hampshire,
September 13.

From the Director General of Save the Children

Sir, Your report of September 12, "Isolating children 'bad way to punish'", unfairly puts childminders in the dock for using "humiliating" forms of psychological punishment, such as forcing children to sit in "naughty chairs" or "naughty corners".

In the guidelines which we issued last week we did indeed highlight what we believe to be bad practices in child discipline; but it has not been our experience that such practices occur among childminders in particular.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE AARONSON,
Director General,
Save the Children,
17 Grove Lane, SE5,
September 13.

From Mr P. J. Taylor

Sir, You report today that the general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers has attacked "negative parenting".

We parents believe that teachers should be attacked for negative grammar.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. TAYLOR,
16 Monks Road,
Virginia Water, Surrey,
September 16.

Romania's future

From Mr Radu Vladicescu

Sir, Mr Gheorghe Dragoș, the Romanian Chargé d'Affaires (letter, September 12), is right in saying that Mr Nicolae Rău, British president of the World Union of Free Romanians, was inaccurate in his letter of September 4 with regard to the exact title of President Iliescu under the executed dictator, Ceausescu.

President Iliescu was not a Minister for Propaganda but Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party with Special Responsibilities for Propaganda; and the local elections in which the Government was ousted from all major towns did not take place in March, as Mr Dragoș is keen to spot, but in June.

I assume that, since these were the only two points Mr Dragoș was eager to correct, all other aspects highlighted by Mr Rău's letter (government incompetence, widespread corruption, etc) are valid.

Yours sincerely,
RADU VLADICESCU,
11a Mountney Road,
Eastbourne, East Sussex.

Out of sync

From Mr Ian Sutherland

Sir, Mr A. R. Jack's concerns at the 500ft error on the altimeter of the flying boat *Corinna* (letter, September 16; see also letters, September 9, 11) remind me of my first flight on Concord to Washington. Seated near the tail I could see the mach meters on the forward and centre bulkheads.

The forward meter read 2.01 and the centre 2.02. When I told the stewardess that the tail seemed to be flying faster than the pilot, her already well-established smile became rather fixed and her eyes glazed over. She did not panic.

The matter was corrected when the pilot went through immigration faster than I did.

Yours sincerely,
IAN SUTHERLAND,
2 Hamilton Gardens, NW8,
September 16.

OBITUARIES

McGEORGE BUNDY

McGeorge Bundy, National Security Adviser to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, died in Boston on September 16 aged 77. He was born in the same city on March 30, 1919.

To have helped to avert what might well have turned into a third world war was, perhaps, McGeorge Bundy's greatest achievement. On the afternoon of October 15, 1962, while serving as President Kennedy's special assistant for national security affairs, Bundy was the first to be informed of the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba. Another man might have rushed to the Oval Office with the news; Bundy did not.

Instead, he delayed telling the President until the next morning, using the intervening time to allow the intelligence agencies to assemble the facts, and to give Kennedy time to rest before dealing with a potential nuclear confrontation.

It was a typical Bundy gambit, keeping the process of decision-making open until all possible policy ramifications had been explored. On October 17, at a meeting of an expert committee set up to advise Kennedy on the Cuban crisis, Bundy argued successfully against an air strike against the missile sites and in favour of a diplomatic approach. And it was by diplomacy, with the help of a naval blockade of the island, that the crisis was eventually resolved.

Once described by the late Judge Learned Hand — a man not given to hyperbole — as "the brightest man in America", McGeorge Bundy was born into a family whose antecedents included a Revolutionary War general, a poet and a former president of Harvard.



Seen in retrospect, his progress to the White House staff appeared almost inevitable. His father had worked in the State Department under Henry L. Stimson, President Hoover's Secretary of State. Stimson, who served in the Administrations of five Presidents, exerted a considerable influence on the younger Bundy, instilling in him a consciousness of his WASP status and the importance of disinterested public service.

A brilliant scholar, Bundy graduated first in his class from Groton School and from Yale, where he became a young fellow in 1941. He then — despite poor eyesight, the resourcefully memorised the

letters on a standard eye-test sheet — volunteered for the Army, starting off as an enlisted man and ending up as a captain in intelligence.

He served on the staff planning the invasions of Sicily and France, working on both occasions in close cooperation with the British (David Astor became a friend at this time). He was released from the military in 1946 and his first postwar job lay in helping Stimson — who had been President Roosevelt's wartime Secretary for the Army — to research and write his autobiography. In April 1948 he went to Washington to work for the agency responsible for implementing the Mar-

shall Plan for restoring the European economies.

As a lecturer in government at Harvard, beginning in 1949, Bundy proved an impressive teacher. He also showed a remarkable ability to handle the university's complicated bureaucracy and its independent-minded faculty. Within four years had been appointed dean of arts and sciences, the second-ranking post (behind only that of university president) at Harvard. In 1954 he was made a full professor, in spite of lacking the normal academic credentials.

Bundy was nominally a Republican, and backed Eisenhower in 1952 and 1956. But he withdrew his support from

the party after its 1960 nomination of Richard Nixon, and worked instead for then Senator John F. Kennedy. Kennedy was so impressed by his intellectual brilliance, organisational ability and philosophical pragmatism, that he offered him a choice of positions in the new Administration. Bundy rejected most of them but accepted that of special assistant for national security affairs.

It proved to be a position of great power. Bundy, in effect, controlled even Cabinet members' access to the President and the agenda of what would be discussed. By the end of 1961 he had virtually achieved Kennedy's aim of sidelining

the State Department, and running foreign affairs through a small semi-secret office. He was now one of the President's "inner circle," a small group of advisers consulted daily, and on whose judgment Kennedy relied in times of crisis.

Unlike many of Kennedy's close associates, Bundy remained at his post after the President's 1963 assassination. Under President Johnson he became an important figure in the formulation of American policy on Vietnam, and his advice was crucial in the decision to increase the bombing raids. His personality, however, did not mix with Johnson's and in December 1965 he resigned from his post to become president of the Ford Foundation. But it was not until 1967 that he joined the chorus of voices protesting against further American involvement in Vietnam. (Part of the explanation here may well have lain in the fact that his elder brother, William P. Bundy, was Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, 1964-69.)

At the Ford Foundation, Bundy's main efforts were concentrated on the elimination of racial discrimination in the United States, and on the improvement of education at all levels. The results were decidedly mixed. After ten years, in 1979, he began a ten-year stint as a professor of history at New York University, then worked from 1990 to 1993 as chairman of the Carnegie Corporation's committee on reducing the danger of nuclear war. He was scholar-in-residence at the Carnegie Corporation at the time of his death.

McGeorge Bundy wrote a number of books, including *The Strength of Government* (1968) and *Danger and Survival* (1988). He is survived by his wife Mary, and four sons.

LLOYD TURNER

Lloyd Turner, journalist, died of a heart attack on September 12 aged 57. He was born on October 2, 1938.

LLOYD TURNER was the stuff of which Fleet Street legends are made. A full-blooded Australian, with a laugh that came from his boots and, in his early days at least, a capacity for drink enough to fill them.

He arrived in England on the Australian journalists' rat-run from Sydney to Manchester — the normal route in the 1960s — after a career in New South Wales on the *Newcastle Morning Herald*, where he began life as a trainee in 1956, working his way through crime, pictures and features before finishing up as assistant editor.

His first job in Britain was on that nursery of great talent, the *Manchester Evening News*, where he was industrial correspondent, an experience that was to prove useful during his turbulent time as father of the *Daily Express* National Union of Journalists chapel (office branch).

The years 1969 to 1974 saw enormous upheaval and industrial unrest in Fleet Street, particularly among journalists who had been kept docile by foreign trips, big bylines, liberal expenses and elastic pub hours. By 1969 this was no longer enough and the journalists began to adopt tactics favoured by the print unions. There were some bruising confrontations with management, and Lloyd Turner's aggressive zeal inflicted some sharp wounds on managers who had already begun to lose their way after the death of Lord Beaverbrook.

Turner's time as FOC saw new house agreements, but the tough, aggressive exterior hid a rather unsure, less confident man who could be carried away with his own enthusiasm. This was the time of the hard-drinking Lloyd Turner. Together with his great and enduring friend Peter Tordy, he founded the 84 Club, based in a flat at Napier Court, Putney, a drinking establishment in which even an Arsenal footballer would have had trouble holding his place.

Scotch was the tipple, and a great deal of it. On one memorable, if hazy, occasion the drink ran out at 4.30am, so Turner knocked up a publican, demanding bottles of Scotch, claiming he had become the proud father of triplets. Such was his charm and conviction that the bleary-eyed, bemused landlord handed the bottles over without a murmur and returned to bed. Such was Fleet Street in the days before flow charts, Perrier water and Diet Coke.

Turner's rise to an editorship was through the traditional route: he was chief sub-editor and night editor of the

Daily Express before being appointed to the elderly spinster's bimbo sister, the *Daily Star*. The *Star* had always lived in the shadow of *The Sun* and the *Daily Mirror*, but it came nearest to emerging in Turner's seven-year reign.

He almost managed to usurp the traditional role of the *Mirror* by capitalising on the mayhem created by Robert Maxwell when he took over the paper in 1984. He gave the *Star* heart and a new zest, and most importantly, new readers, largely at the expense of the *Mirror*. Controversy was there, too: Turner was castigated for running pictures of a pregnant Princess of Wales sunbathing, which had been obtained by a reporter and photographer crawling through undergrowth for the best part of half a mile. The readers lapped it up.

His editorship ended after a silly mistake he had not seen, something all editors dread. The *Star* labelled Jeffrey Archer after the *News of the World's* disclosure of his £2,000 payment to a prostitute. The paper decided to fight the case and went down for £500,000, but not before the nation had been treated to some splendidly juicy stuff, which ended with the judge referring to the then Mrs Mary Archer as "fragrant" — an epithet that has stuck.

Turner started out on a new career as a farmer, rearing prize bulls together with his third wife, Jill, a former *Daily Express* reporter and night news editor. Happily married and now non-drinking, he had found a solid, lasting relationship that had eluded him in his earlier days. But in spite of his bulls — "my boys", as he described them — journalism remained his first love and he was desperate to return. He did so as an assistant editor on *Today*, where once again he took on the role of management scourge, this time not on pay but on "new technology".

When *Today* closed he went back to his "boys", but in his 58th year his spirit remained restless. He was about to go back to newspapers, this time on the *Daily Mail*.

Outwardly brash and outspoken, Turner was in fact a self-doubting, self-examining man; not a bad combination for an editor. His furious sense of injustice for those who could not speak for themselves remained to the end, whether it was in his journalism or his charity work for the NSPCC.

His last months were spent advising the National Farmers' Union on "mad cow" disease and the human connection. That must have given that big laugh a chance to work overtime. For as an executive on *Today* he had helped the paper to expose the scandal in the first place, a scandal the NFU refused to admit existed.

He is survived by his third wife.



MAJOR-GENERAL JAMES SCOTT-ELLIOT

Major-General James Scott-Elliott, CBE, DSO and Bar, GOC 5th (Highland) Division, 1952-56, died on September 12 aged 93. He was born on November 6, 1902.

JIM SCOTT-ELLIOT used to say "trust in providence, and follow your star" and he certainly practised what he preached. He was essentially a fighting soldier, who commanded two different Scottish battalions in Tunisia and Sicily, and two different brigades in Italy. He survived their many battles unscathed to tell the tale in several monographs, which he has left with his family.

The son of Lieutenant-Colonel W. Scott-Elliott, he was educated at Wellington College and Sandhurst. Commissioned into the King's Own Scottish Borderers, he served with the 2nd Battalion in Egypt, Hong Kong, Shanghai and India, becoming its Adjutant in 1929. After a spell in Malta he was transferred to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, attended the Staff College in 1937-38 and

was GSO3, Scottish Command in 1939. To him fell the task of dispatching the mobilisation telegram — "War has broken out with Germany" — to all units serving in Scotland.

Early in 1940 he left France as the Brigade Major of the 154th Brigade in the 51st (Highland) Division. It was employed initially on digging the anti-tank defences round Lille. However, when the German Blitzkrieg opened in France and Belgium in May 1940, the division was down in the Saar, far from the rest of the BEF, holding a sector of the Maginot Line's covering position. They were rushed back north to help the French defend the Somme after the Germans had broken through to the Channel coast and pinned down the BEF at Dunkirk.

Two of Scott-Elliott's battalions were virtually wiped out. Luckily his brigade was withdrawn to organise the defence of Le Havre. So he escaped being taken prisoner when the rest of the Highland Division was forced to surrender at St Valéry. He returned to England with his brigade via Le Havre and Cherbourg.



He did not see active service again until December 1942, when he was commanding the 6th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. They had been converted into the 93rd Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery, for the Tunisian campaign, and their batteries and troops were used as anti-tank "fire brigades" up and down the Allied front throughout the winter battles of 1942-43. Suddenly at no notice,

Scott-Elliott was sent off to take command of the 8th Battalion of the Argylls, whose commanding officer, together with most of his headquarters, had been killed on the notorious Longstop feature, overlooking the approaches to Tunis. The 8th Battalion was back in action under Scott-Elliott's command within 48 hours, and fought on throughout the final battles for Tunis in the 78th Division.

Scott-Elliott continued to command the 8th Argylls

throughout the Sicilian campaign, winning the DSO at Centuripe, to the west of Mount Etna, where in August 1943 his battalion played a major part in persuading Heilmann's 3rd German Parachute Battalion to abandon this key town. He took the 8th Argylls on to Italy where he won his second DSO during the landings at Termoli in October 1943. With very few anti-tank guns and no tank support, his Argylls absorbed and then stopped 16th Panzer Division's counter-attacks. This epic fight cost the battalion 162 casualties.

During Montgomery's crossing of the Sangro in November, Scott-Elliott was again sent off at short notice, this time promoted to command the 17th Indian Brigade in the 8th Indian Division. Its commander had just been sacked for failing to hold the important hill town of Mozzagrona on the north side of the Sangro. Hardly speaking any Urdu, or knowing much about Indian troops, he quickly established a rapport with its officers and retook the town. Three months later he was sent across to the west coast of Italy to command the 167th (London) Brigade of the 56th Division in the bridgehead over the Garigliano River.

But in mid-February 1944, the 56th Division was shipped off in a hurry to Anzio where the Germans were making determined efforts to drive the Allies back into the sea. His brigade took over a position just west of the crucial Fivory Bridge in the centre of the Allied line. The day after their arrival, the German forces made their final despairing effort to break through. The British Official History remarks: "167th Brigade was offering a very stubborn defence." His forward companies were, indeed, overrun,

but the rest held firm until the German effort was spent.

The 56th Division returned to Italy for the breaching of the Gothic Line in September 1944. Scott-Elliott's brigade took the lead as the division thrust its way through the Apennine foothills in a series of hard-fought battles until it reached the Po Valley just as the autumn rains began. Thereafter, he played a full part in the frustrating and costly winter battles among the Romagna rivers; and in the final decisive battle of the campaign, fought just south of the River Po, his brigade operated successfully around Lake Comacchio and through the Argenta Gap. His troops were the first to cross the Po on April 25, 1945.

The war over, his brigade occupied Pola, the Italian naval port on the Istrian Peninsula south of Trieste, and succeeded in clearing the Yugoslavs out of it without bloodshed. When his brigade was disbanded in February 1946, he was sent to Germany to command the 130th Brigade, but he was soon back in Italy where his successor, commanding the 13th Brigade, had been assassinated. He stayed on until the political settlement of May 1947.

He retired from the Army in 1956, having been Deputy Director of Military Training in the War Office, 1948-50; Deputy Commander 51st Highland Division, 1950-52; and its Commander, 1952-56. He was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Dumfriesshire in 1962. He was president of the Antiquaries of Scotland and of the British Dowsers Society, publishing *Dowsing One Man's Way* in 1977.

He married Cecil Margaret Du Boisson in 1932. The marriage was dissolved in 1969, and he married Fay Courtould in 1971. She and the son and two daughters of his first marriage survive him.

THE DEATH OF LOUIS XVIII

Thus, then, the event so often predicted — the death of LOUIS XVIII of France — has at length become a matter of history. That Prince is actually dead. He and NAPOLEON are alike removed from the world, which blazed with their adverse pretensions — that world which was wrung with misery, and drenched with blood, for the sake of fixing one or other of them upon a throne, from which, within ten short years, they have now successfully and irrevocably fallen. Yet, for all the millions of lives that were sacrificed, and of treasures wasted, on account of these two men, how few of the individuals that survive them would pay five pounds, or travel a day's journey, to bring either of them back into existence. Such, alas! in the eye of a calm observer, is the vanity of most human agitations. No European Prince of the last two centuries underwent more vicissitudes than Louis XVIII, nor endured them with more exemplary equanimity. It is not too much to say on his behalf, that there was no exhibition of meanness in his adversity, nor of insolence in his prosperous fortune. How much of this seeming superiority to fate may have sprung from a real grandeur of conception or how much from mere constitutional heedlessness — not troubling itself about any but immediate

ON THIS DAY

September 18, 1824

Louis XVIII (1755-1824) was the brother of the executed Louis XVI. As a refugee he spent the years 1807-14 in England. On the restoration of the monarchy he promised to grant a constitution — the Charter.

and trivial objects — it might, perhaps be no very difficult office to determine. Louis was unquestionably more an Epicurean than a Stoic. His indolent love of pleasure served him as a substitute for the nobler contempt of suffering; and those who speak of him as magnanimous under misfortune, may be reminded that a man of sluggish sensibility buys the fame of being "magnanimous" at a small expense. Louis XVIII was sometimes called "LOUIS LE FAUX." This epithet seems to have been obtained from two classes of his subjects: one of which charged him with the non-performance of pledges given to them

while they were companions of his exile; the other, with a gradual violation of those which were embodied in the Charter, and which accompanied his restoration to the throne. Between these parties, opposite as they were, and irreconcilable, the King had to shape a course of policy which it was not easy to execute, but which, we imagine, was easier to Louis in proportion to his habits of indolence, to the coldness of the better affections in him, and, at the same time, to an absence of the acrimonious and vindictive passions. A Prince of a more fiery character would either have quarrelled with his friends when they approached him with the breach of his promise, or have given way to the Royal appetite for omniscience, by wholly refusing a charter to his subjects, or by seizing the first provocation afforded him, through treason or intemperance, to overturn it. Louis XVIII did neither; his taste was pleasure — not power. He maintained a good-humoured intercourse with the adherents whose most sanguine hopes he had disappointed. Upon the whole, he may rank in history as a Prince who, steered by more than ordinary temper through circumstances complicated and new; and, as compared with the average of Bourbon Princes, he is entitled to a place in which few of the family can approach him.

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2

TODAY

BUSINESS

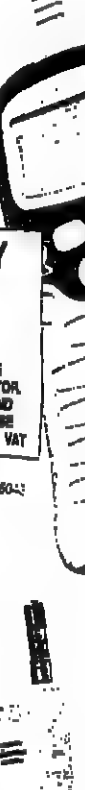
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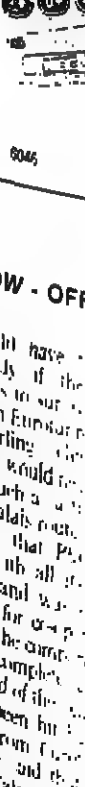


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A Bear

FROM RICHARD LEESE
IN NEW YORK

FIVE directors at Bear Stearns are paying themselves a total of \$10 million for 1996, setting a record for a business director's pay with remuneration packages a pay cheque of \$1.5 million while Alan Greenberg

2 TODAY



**Ben Jonson's
Alchemist turns
fools into gold
PAGES 32-34**



Is television wrong
to dabble in
the paranormal? .
PAGES 30, 31



**£25m deal earns
Stewart place in
race to sign Hill
PAGES 39-44**

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
42, 43**

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18 1996

City disappointed as total for August hits £4.5bn

Just one month after the Government enjoyed a bigger repayment of borrowing in July, yesterday's fig-

The figure for August was flattered by about £400 million of privatisation proceeds, mostly from the sale of BT loan stock. Stripping out privatisation proceeds, borrowing in the first five months of this year has totalled £16.1 billion.

and that there are underlying inflationary pressures. At the same time, the chambers called for public spending to be maintained in key areas such as education and transport infrastructure. David Richardson, BCC President, said: "Above

the Government having its FSBK target for this year of £27 billion. But City economists said that the Government's grip on public spending appears to be slipping as the general election approaches, warnings that found resonance in the Chancellor's statement yesterday that more than

Andrew Cates of UBS Ltd said: "The onset of a general election is unlikely to prove conducive to spending restraint through the rest of this year and we expect the spending picture to deteriorate further." On the revenue side, the news

is mildly positive. Receipts so far this financial year are up 6.5 per cent compared with the Treasury's projection for the full year of 5.3 per cent. Within total tax receipts, VAT was a reflector of the buoyant growth seen in July which appeared as a slight strengthening of consumer demand and spending. VAT receipts in August totalled £3.3 billion, about £1 billion less than last August. However, the picture may not be as negative as this suggests because the timing of VAT payments has changed. VAT receipts in the first five months of the year were still nearly 10 per cent higher than the same period a year ago.

Pay battle looms, page 1

By Jason Nisse

The news came as Sears revealed a fall in pre-tax profits for the half year to July 31 from £29.9 million to £2.5 million. The drop comes largely because of the £25 million extra provision taken after the collapse of Stephen Hinchliffe's retailing empire meant that Sears had to take back 379 shoe shops sold to the Sheffield businessman. His businesses are now being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office.

Sears has now sold 165 of these shops and another 69 are under offer. The remainder are being closed at the cost of more than 2,000 jobs.

Most City analysts are expecting pre-tax profits for the year of between £90 million and £95 million.

Earnings per share were just 0.1p, down from 21.6p and the half-year dividend, payable on December 2, is unchanged at 1.05p.

□ **Style**, which recently bought the Hush Puppy chain from Sears, saw pre-tax profits in the half-year to August 3 increase £100,000 to £571,000. Earnings per share were 1.26p (1.24p) and there is no dividend.



Liam Strong, left, and Sir Bob Reid, chairman of Sears, with some Selfridges products

BY PAUL DURMAN

However, Tesco's shares fell 54p to 297p as the City worried about the impact of its "unbeatable value" price promotion, launched last week. Tesco estimates the promotion, which promises to give customers back twice the difference if they can find prices cheaper nearby, will cost an

Tesco has increased its interim dividend 6.6 per cent to 3.25p a share.

Pennington, page 25

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26

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| 12445* | (124 |
| 110.38* | (110. |
| 97.2 | (97 |

* denotes midday trading price

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

Group profits for the six months to June 30 rose 2 per

The interim dividend was unchanged at 13.5p, payable on November 15.

Pennington, page 25

continuing disciplinary proceedings against four former Barings executives, including Ron Baker, head of the financial products group. **Clean image, page 27**

By Karen Zagor

Although Alliance & Leicester's net mortgage ad-

Pre-tax profits for the six months rose 12 per cent, to £183 million. Girobank, which the society owns, contributed £30 million, compared with £30.5 million a year earlier.

James Cayne, the chief executive, receives a pay cheque of \$20.4 million while Alan Greenberg, the chairman,

The pay at Bear Stearns outstrips anything seen at rival investment banks this year. The bank's net income more than doubled to \$490 million.

Most of the high pay packages are in the form of bonuses since the bank's executives receive a base salary of

Goldman Sachs plans to pay each of its general partners only \$5 million, much of which is retained within the firm, in spite of doubling its profits for the first nine of months of the year to \$1.9 billion.

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Mace quits Vardon division

David Mace has resigned as executive chairman of the attractions division of Vardon, the leisure group, with a view to setting up a Spanish equivalent of Sea Life, its underwater theme park chain.

Mr Mace, who sold Sea Life to Vardon in 1992, is in talks to buy the group's newly opened attraction in Spain.

In the first half of the year, the group saw its pre-tax profits drop 22 per cent, to £1.82 million on sales up 29 per cent, at £29.6 million. Its shares fell from 108p to 88½p yesterday. An interim dividend of 0.45p (0.4p) will be paid on November 15, from earnings of 1.4p per share (2p).

Client growth

A spate of new clients including the Prudential and Granada boosted the pre-tax profit of Abbott Mead Vickers, the advertising group, by 35 per cent to £4.7 million in the half year to June 30. Turnover rose 16 per cent to £159 million and the interim dividend, payable on October 25, rises from 2.69p to 3.25p. Shares rose 14p to 595p.

UCM ahead

Universal Ceramic Materials earned pre-tax profits of £1.67 million (£1.45 million) in the half year to June 30. Earnings were 4.5p (4.2p) a share. The interim dividend is increased to 1.6p (1.5p).

Jarvis soars

Jarvis, the construction and facilities management company, reported pre-tax profits of £590,000 (£108,000) for the six months to June 30. Earnings rose to 1.3p (0.3p) a share. There is again no interim dividend.

Payout held

Automotive Precision Holdings, the manufacturer of high-precision components, is holding the interim dividend at 1.7p a share. In the six months to June 30 pre-tax profits fell to £2.7 million (£2.8 million) and earnings were 4.5p a share (4.6p).



Terry Twigger, left, and Mike Stacey wear protective jackets made by Meggitt that have been ordered by the police

Investment by Meggitt to double

LIGHTWEIGHT body armour and air-to-air targeting devices were among the products that helped Meggitt, the engineering group, to lift profits 47 per cent, to £11.9 million, in the six months to June 30 (Fraser Nelson writes).

The group, where Mike Stacey is chief executive and Terry Twigger finance director, achieved growth in all three of its divisions. It said that it was now in a position to double its investment, and predicted a total of £20 million would be spent on development by the year-end.

Overall, sales were 21 per cent ahead, at £132 million. Meggitt's electronics division was hit by the petrol price war. The company said that the consequent loss in profits could be £1.2 million. Esso, credited with starting the petrol price war, has placed a £3.5 million order with Meggitt to renew its own UK garage control instruments. An interim dividend of 1.35p (1.3p) will be paid on December 6.

British Airways job losses likely to be limited to 5,000

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
THE CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR British Airways managers will today learn how many jobs are to be lost as a result of a radical shake-up of the airline.

Worried staff had feared that up to 10,000 jobs could be axed as part of a reorganisation of the airline over the next three years. But Robert Ayling, chief executive, will tell a meeting of managers at

Heathrow that the final figure could be about 5,000.

Mr Ayling will outline his vision for "the second transformation" of the airline which, he claims, is essential if BA is to compete in the fast-changing international marketplace.

The managers, who will then hold departmental meetings to explain the changes to staff, will be told that the change made to the airline in the 1990s was a "textbook operation", but that rivals

have now caught up and costs are rising faster than revenue.

Growing pressure from low-cost airlines, such as EasyJet, together with the expected increase in competition at Heathrow from any "open skies" agreement with the United States has meant that another reorganisation is inevitable, Mr Ayling will say.

This will involve having off several parts of the airline, which will then operate either as "stand alone" units within

the parent company or be sold entirely to outsiders. No firm details of which areas will go will therefore be impossible to give any firm job loss figures.

The changes will include the development of new intra-European routes from next April, after the completion of "open skies" within Europe, and another major alliance, which will take three years to be fully implemented. Once

the first part of the planned reorganisation has been completed next year the airline will be given a new logo and new paint scheme, which will cost £60 million. Details of the new design are still being worked on, but BA wants to take on a "global" identity.

Hopes are rising within BA that the planned alliance with American Airlines will be approved by the Office of Fair Trading, opening the way to the signing of a general bilateral air services agreement between Britain and the US.

British negotiators have accepted that the US will never agree to foreign airlines being allowed to operate domestic services within the US. But they are insisting that US airlines should not have "beyond rights" from Britain to another country.

Although the talks are stalled, a behind-the-scenes deal is likely to be signed quickly once the OFT has given the go ahead to the proposed BA/JAA link up.

USAir rules out role in alliance

FROM RICHARD THOMSON
IN NEW YORK

USAIR has signalled a deep rupture with British Airways, its 25 per cent owner, by declaring that it cannot be involved in the proposed partnership between BA and American Airlines.

The alliance is awaiting

regulatory approval in Britain and America. Stephen Wolf, USAir's chairman, said: "We simply do not believe we can be part of it." Although BA has said it does not plan to dispose of its stake in the company if its deal with American goes ahead, insiders have speculated for weeks that USAir's position in the

new combination would be untenable.

USAir regarded BA's attempt to merge its marketing efforts with American as a betrayal and filed a legal action in July seeking to sever itself from BA. Since then, communication between the two companies has virtually ceased. The rupture with USAir is a potential em-

barrassment for BA, however, as its plans to combine with American look increasingly rocky. Talks between the British and US Governments on a new "open skies" agreement have broken down for the time being. The BA-American deal can only proceed once the open skies question has been settled.

Insurer seeks to answer criticism

By MARTIN BARROW

DOMESTIC & General Group yesterday sought to answer criticism of domestic appliance breakdown insurance policies, claiming that consumer demand for cover remained strong.

The company, one of Britain's leading providers of breakdown insurance for domestic appliances, reported a 7.6 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £11.4 million for the year to June 30.

Martin Copley, chairman, said: "Instinctively, the public seems to understand what our statistical data confirms: namely, that with few exceptions the average electrical appliance is little more reliable than five years ago, whereas repair costs have risen considerably."

Insurance policies covering domestic appliances have attracted considerable criticism because of their relatively high cost as a proportion of the total cost of the product and the difficulty consumers frequently encounter when attempting to make a claim.

The policies have been the subject of an inquiry by the Office of Fair Trading.

Mr Copley said that there had been a modest deterioration in the company's loss

ratio on policies, which was at least partly attributable to "the growing awareness by policyholders of their right to claim".

Domestic & General hopes to expand further in continental Europe, where its fledgling business earned £53,000 in the first half. The company said that the greatest potential for expansion existed in Germany.

The total dividend rises to 40.25p a share from 33.30p, with a 28p final. Earnings increased to 112.53p a share from 100.62p. The shares were unchanged at £17.95.

TOURIST RATES

| | Bank Rate | Bank Rate |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Australia \$ | 2.07 | 1.91 |
| Austria Sch | 17.98 | 16.09 |
| Belgium Fr | 51.38 | 47.08 |
| Canada \$ | 2.228 | 2.078 |
| Cyprus Cyp | 0.757 | 0.702 |
| Denmark Kr | 9.62 | 8.82 |
| Finland Mk | 7.54 | 6.98 |
| France Fr | 8.39 | 7.74 |
| Germany DM | 2.50 | 2.29 |
| Greece Dr | 389 | 364 |
| Hong Kong \$ | 12.67 | 11.67 |
| Ireland P | 1.62 | 1.54 |
| Israel Sh | 5.32 | 4.87 |
| Italy Lira | 2042 | 2027 |
| Japan Yen | 165.40 | 169.40 |
| Malta | 0.682 | 0.547 |
| Netherlands Gld | 2.788 | 2.508 |
| New Zealand \$ | 2.38 | 2.17 |
| Norway Kr | 10.61 | 9.81 |
| Portugal Esc | 251.00 | 232.50 |
| S Africa Rd | 7.57 | 6.77 |
| Spain Ptas | 204.50 | 191.50 |
| Sweden Kr | 10.96 | 10.18 |
| Switzerland Fr | 2.65 | 1.88 |
| Turkey Lira | 141250 | 133050 |
| USA \$ | 1.654 | 1.524 |

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates go of date of trading yesterday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

US damages ruling lifts shares in BAT

BAT Industries, the tobacco and financial services company, yesterday enjoyed a rare jump in its share price after a court dismissed most of a smoking damages case brought by the state authorities in Florida. BAT shares rose 23½p to 462½p, compared with a year low of 422p. The shares are still 20 per cent below the year high of 585p, which they hit in February before the tobacco industry suffered a series of legal setbacks in the US. The company said the ruling meant that BAT and Batus Holdings, its US holding company, would not be liable for any damages awarded against Brown and Williamson, its US tobacco subsidiary.

The court also reduced the number of actions that the State of Florida could proceed with from 18 to three and ruled that each action must be tried separately. The news also boosted tobacco stocks in America, with Philip Morris up \$2.175 to \$94.175 and RJR Nabisco Holdings up \$0.75 to \$27.25. The tobacco industry still faces about 14 other class-action suits.

Telekom payout pledge

DEUTSCHE TELEKOM, the state-owned phone company that is to be privatised by the German Government this autumn, said it would pay DM1.5 billion in dividends to shareholders at the end of this year. The net yield could not be determined because the details of the flotation, such as the number of shares to be sold, are not known. But analysts said it was likely to be 4 per cent to 5 per cent — similar to other large telecoms groups. The company reported net income of DM130 million (DM700 million) in the half year to June 30.

Asda Property stake sold

MANNY DAVIDSON, founder and chairman of Asda Property Holdings, has sold 40 per cent of his family's stake in the company for £16.8 million. The deal, which took all of the shares to institutions, takes Mr Davidson's family stake from 35 per cent to 22 per cent. The shares were sold at 145p, against yesterday's closing price of 155½p. In the six months to June 30, Asda Property lifted pre-tax profits to £5.07 million (£3.35 million). Earnings were 2.3p per share (1.8p). An interim dividend of 0.85p (0.8p) will be paid on November 1.

Olivetti at record low

SHARES in Olivetti tumbled to a record low of 465 lire in a wave of panic selling as the company scrambled to answer fresh questions from Italy's stock market regulators about the state of its finances. The sense of crisis was reinforced by news that Carlo De Benedetti, former chairman, and Antonio Tesone, chairman, are under preliminary investigation by magistrates in the company's home town of Ivrea. Francesco Calo, chief executive, is also under investigation. The magistrates suspect Olivetti may have issued misleading statements about its affairs.

Treats shares fall

SHARES of Treats Group, the lollipop maker that floated in June, fell from 134p to 100½p yesterday after it said poor summer weather had left it unlikely to make a profit in its second half. Barry Thomas, chief executive, said that the group would make an overall profit by the year end. In the 26 weeks to June 29, pre-tax profits were 10 per cent down at £1.51 million. Earnings were 10.5p per share (11.6p). A maiden interim dividend of 1.5p will be paid on October 15.

Warning by Roxboro

ROXBORO GROUP, the specialist engineering company, saw £46.6 million wiped off its market value yesterday after a profits warning sent its shares down 83p to 230p. The group lifted turnover to £55.1 million (£45.8 million) in the first half. Pre-tax profits were flat at £8.01 million (£8.16 million), leaving earnings of 9.7p (10.2p) per share. An interim dividend of 2.2p (2p) is payable on October 30. The shares recovered slightly to reach 232½p.

Travis Perkins ahead

PROFITS at Travis Perkins, the supplier of timber and building materials, edged forward to £17.22 million before tax from £16.91 million in the six months to June 30. The increase was attributed to a five-month contribution from newly acquired BMSS, whose 26 branches have increased the total number of Travis Perkins outlets to 248. Earnings rose to 11.2p a share from 10.8p. The interim dividend is increased to 3p a share from 2.8p, due November 1.

Vymura holds dividend

VYMURA, the maker of wallcoverings, is holding the interim dividend at 1.6p a share after reporting a fall in pre-tax profits to £1.27 million (£1.84 million) in the six months to June 30. Earnings fell to 3.47p (5p) a share. There was a £308,000 restructuring charge. The company said there had been an encouraging start to the second half with sales for July and August well ahead of the disappointing levels in the same period in 1995. The shares rose 19½p to 152½p.

How to be more equal than others.

From Thursday 26th September, The Times introduces an exciting new Appointments Section. It includes First Executive, especially for graduates and young professionals in the early stages of their careers.

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مكتبة من الأصل

□ Grocers shrug off "store wars" □ Uncertain future for the country's pensioners □ Rationalisation looms on cross-Channel routes

Pile it high, keep it dear

RECEIVED wisdom has it that the big supermarkets, after years of overcharging us all for our basic needs, have been forced by "store wars" to cut back on their greed and hand over some of their loot to the shopper through lower prices. Received wisdom is wrong on both fronts. Listen to this City analyst, asked if we can look forward to more price cuts in the run-up to Christmas. "There's no net gain for anybody if all go in for wholesale slicing of prices in one category," he replied, thus providing, one might suggest, a useful example of a cartel in operation. The supermarkets, for all the appearance of cut-throat competition, are still doing very nicely indeed.

First, the matter of their earlier "over-charging". British supermarkets have enjoyed margins well ahead of those in most other countries, heading for 10 per cent in the case of food sales at Marks & Spencer, the clear leader, because the shopper has been prepared to accept these in return for convenience. Next time you are in one, compare the price per pound of the ready-packed vegetables and their loose equivalents. Then see which walk off the shelves first.

Now to "store wars". Tesco, Sainsbury, Safeway and Asda between them control three fifths of all food sales, and in such a

market a remarkable unanimity of pricing is not hard to achieve. The fall in operating margins at Tesco yesterday, of 0.3 percentage points to 5.6 per cent, is almost entirely down to the war being fought out at the petrol forecourt, which is not a conflict instigated or desired by the grocers. For Tesco at least, those limited price cuts on food could be matched by cost savings within the stores.

We will have to wait until November, and their own interim figures, to see if Sainsbury and Safeway have managed the same trick, but the betting is they have. What has been happening is that certain bulk lines have had their prices cut, often by means of multi-buys and other promotions. The higher-margin product from the other, has held its price. This pattern looks set to continue, with much-trumpeted promotions of selected lines this autumn rather than cross-store price-slashing.

Tesco has managed its remarkable resurgence by concentrating on peripheral de-

tails — its with-interest loyalty card and checkout packers, for example, which, experience suggests, will eventually become standard at the rest. It has gained market share, but November will show if the others have too, at the expense of the embattled independents. The betting, too, is that they have.

This increase aside, food retailing is a static, no-growth business, which is why Tesco and others are looking overseas. But what a business. Plenty of other retailers have skirted disaster; some have met it head on. But no one has ever suggested one of our leading grocers might go bust.

Penny-pinching on pensions

THE more politicians aim to rely on the private sector to provide decent pensions in the next century, the more the private sector shies away. Not us, guys, we can't afford it either.

The latest painful evidence comes from a survey for the Association of Consulting Actuaries of 468 small companies



with up to 250 employees. It finds that there has been so rapid a switch from schemes paying a pension based on final salary to money-purchase investment plans that 60 per cent now have them and a further 23 per cent have group personal pensions, which also define contributions rather than retirement benefits.

In itself, that is no bad thing. Such schemes are less complex for small firms and fit an era of greater mobility. The trouble is that employers are taking the opportunity to skimp on pension costs. On average, employer and employee contribute a combined 8.2 per cent of pay, compared with 15.4 per cent for final-salary schemes. That is a "cut" of more than 7 per cent. Even allowing

for membership of Serps, more common in money purchase schemes, there is a 5.6 per cent contributions gap.

At this rate, claim the actuaries, people will be lucky to get 20-30 per cent of their pay in retirement, much less than the 40 per cent or more that final salary schemes usually intend to produce. It is not just small firms either. A recent survey of big companies by actuary Lane, Clark & Peacock found that some money purchase schemes were inadequate and that one FT-SE 100 company spends only 3 per cent of its payroll on pensions.

This is not an argument over the type of scheme but the scale of contribution. Unless somebody puts 10-15 per cent of pay in pension contributions, nothing satisfying is likely to come out of the other end.

At the very moment when politicians are trying to talk down people's expectations of state pensions, realistic expectations of private pensions for the half of employees working for smaller firms are also falling. The trend is in the same direction for larger firms, though at an

earlier stage. Oddly, there is an equal trend to special, more generous, schemes for directors. Their precarious legitimacy provides the weapon politicians will need to use to secure adequate contributions for the many.

Wanted: ferry to wave a magic wand

THIS summer Brittany Ferries, which plies its cross-Channel trade only because of a running, and possibly illegal, subsidy from the French Government, decided to celebrate its 20th anniversary in a novel way. For a while all fares were to be pegged at 1976 prices. Then came the snag. The prices were some 25 per cent higher in those days.

It is hard to think of another consumer product that has even held its price in nominal terms over 20 years of inflation. It is harder to think of a more graphic demonstration of the viciousness of the cross-Channel price war. The ferry operators are now in a no-win situation where each is pledged to match price cuts brought in by any of the others,

so ensuring a downward spiral in prices. The situation goes against the normal rules of economics, because demand for cross-Channel travel is rising, up 15 per cent year-on-year.

The reason, of course, is the Channel Tunnel, which P&O says is using its enviable position as an effective bankrupt, free of the normal business disciplines, to cut tariffs. Pass on for a moment from the thought of a management that actually envies Eurotunnel's financial plight, because the complaint is at least partly justified. This is why the Government lifted a ban on co-operation between the two biggest operators, P&O and Stena. P&O's purchase of North Sea Ferries is therefore only the start of a sustained effort by Lord Sterling, who is aware he is living on borrowed time in the City, to pull around the ferries operation. Expect more moves on the Western Channel routes to Brittany and Normandy, and on the Hull-Scandinavia crossing. But first, expect a Stena deal in time for the end of the year and next spring's brochures.

This will not amount to a full merger. But a comprehensive stitch-up of the Dover-Calais run, and the loss of any number of older ferries, should be viewed benignly by the Government, so easing concerns over the attitude of the competition authorities.

Rush over new test lifts BSM

A nationwide rush to avoid the new written driving test boosted interim profits at BSM, the motor school, which turned in record results yesterday. Motor school revenue rose from £10.6 million to £11.7 million, but the company said pupil levels returned to normal after the introduction of the written test in July.

After exceptional, pre-tax profits were £2.92 million (£2.43 million). Earnings were 7.5p per share (6.3p), and an interim dividend of 2.53p (2.3p) will be paid on October 28.

Vale of tears

Golden Vale, the food company based in the Irish Republic, suffered a sharp fall in first-half pre-tax profits. The company, which earlier this year paid £1.31 million in milk superlevy arrears and later sacked its managing director, reported a 46 per cent fall in profits to £14.1 million. Earnings per share were down 54 per cent to 11.9p. The interim dividend is maintained at 10.6p, payable on October 16.

Carlton coup

Carlton Communications is to supply 700 hours of programming to UK Gold, the pay-TV channel, in its biggest sale outside of the ITV market. The deal, worth £2.6 million, will give UK Gold access to Carlton's library of old programmes, including *Crossroads*, *Boon*, *Spitting Image*, *Chancer* and *Freddie Starr*, through the turn of the century.

Cassell dips

Cassell, the book publisher, is maintaining the interim dividend at 1.5p a share for the six months to June 30 in spite of a £639,000 pre-tax loss (£632,000 loss) after a £112,000 exceptional re-organisation charge. Losses were 9.1p a share (9p loss).

Cut in construction loss helps lift Taylor Woodrow 81%

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE severe pressure on construction margins shows little sign of relenting, Taylor Woodrow said yesterday.

The building and property company has reduced its exposure to construction in the UK after project famine caused by the recession. It said it was now bidding for fewer private finance initiative projects and was likely to scale back further.

However, the restoration of health to a number of divisions boosted interim pre-tax profits by 81 per cent to £25.7 million. The interim dividend, payable on November 1, rises 33 per cent to 1p, although the company warned investors not to expect a similar increase in the full dividend.

Losses in construction were reduced to £1.2 million in the six months to June 30 from £10.7 million in the first half of 1995. The turnaround was largely fuelled by increased work overseas, while the UK continued to trade in the red. As part of its shakeout in construction Taylor Woodrow closed Myton, its specialist refurbishing division, at a cost of £2 million.

While international construction buoyed its less healthy domestic counterpart, it too has become a less lucrative area for the company as fiercer competition sets in.



Colin Parsons says margins on international construction are under pressure because of increased competition

Colin Parsons, the chairman, said that margins in international construction were weakening. Traditionally, it has produced profit margins of about 5 per cent but new players are bidding for work with tenders substantially below the usual rates. Mr Parsons said.

The company is, however, hopeful of prospects in the second half and sees a modest revival in the UK housing market. David Green, finance director, said the upturn would translate into increased volumes before any firming of house prices fed through. Also, land prices were rising

sharply in many parts of the country, adding to a squeeze on margins. A typical plot price has climbed from £18,000 at the end of last year to £19,100 at the end of June. Taylor Woodrow's housing division pushed up profits 5 per cent to £9.6 million amid a mixed international picture.

A new chief executive is expected to be announced before Taylor Woodrow's next results. Tony Palmer said yesterday that he would retire next year, after 43 years with the company and six years at the helm.

Tempus, page 26

Savoy loses £5m as renovations lower occupancy

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

HALF-YEAR profits at Savoy Hotel were held back by the company's £62 million refurbishment programme which has resulted in overall occupancy levels remaining well below the market average.

The company yesterday unveiled a 4.5 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £4.4 million in the six months to June 30 but added that full-year profits would suffer because of continuing work at Claridge's.

The company said that its refurbishment programme had so far cost around £5 million in lost revenue. Savoy also revealed that it had incurred costs of £550,000 during the Granada bid for Forte at the beginning of the year, with the company seeking to work out the implications of the bid for its future.

But there were still no details on Granada's plans to dispose of its 68 per cent stake in Savoy, which it acquired with the Forte takeover.

The disposal of the Granada stake has been complicated by the continuing control of voting rights at Savoy by the Wontner family through their 'B' share holdings.

Savoy said refurbishment work in most of the hotels was near completion, with that at Claridge's due to be finished next spring.

The company's 'A' shares rose 32p to close at £13.625. There is again no dividend.

Tempus, page 26

BSG anxious to spin off Bristol Street

RICHARD MARTON, chief executive of BSG International, said that the company was keen to spin-off its Bristol Street Motors car dealership "sooner rather than later" (Alasdair Murray writes).

Mr Marton hinted that, with the car market improving, the company may choose to float the dealership rather than make a trade sale. Analysts predict Bristol Street could be worth around £130 million on the stock market. He was speaking yesterday as BSG unveiled half-year profits up 37 per cent to £19.4 million. Turnover was up 11 per cent to £476 million, while the interim was increased by 10 per cent, to 0.77p, payable on December 31. Shares rose 6.1p, to 99p.

Tempus, page 26

Channel 5 launch delayed

By ERIC REGULY

THE launch of Channel 5 will be delayed by as much as six weeks and cost an extra £20 million because of the time required to retune the millions of video recorders in the channel's newly enlarged coverage area, David Elstein, chief executive, said yesterday.

The expanded retuning effort will mean that Channel 5 will not start broadcasting until some time in the first half of February. The channel's owners — Pearson, Woodburn

Pincus, United News & Media and CLT — had hoped for a New Year's Day launch.

More time is required because of the Government's decision this week to give Channel 5 the use of second broadcast frequency for five years. This will add about 1.8 million homes to its transmission area, taking coverage from 74 per cent of the population to 80 per cent or more. He said the cost of the retuning effort would proba-

bly rise from £100 million to £120 million. So far, video recorders have been retuned in 500,000 homes.

Mr Elstein also said he hoped to sign an agreement soon with BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, an associate company of News International, owner of *The Times*, to broadcast Channel 5 in areas that are beyond the reach of its terrestrial transmitters. This would give Channel 5 as much as 6 per cent extra coverage.

Warning hits Watmoughs

Shares of Watmoughs (Holdings) fell 44.2p to 413.2p yesterday after the printing company reported a decline in first-half profits and gave warning of mixed trading conditions in the second half.

In the six months to June 30 pre-tax profits fell to £9.62 million (£10.07 million) due to UK reorganisation costs of £1.14 million and strong competition.

The interim dividend rises to 2.75p a share from 2.5p, payable November 8.

Brent beats City forecasts

By PAUL DURMAN

SHARES of Brent International rose 8.4p to 107p yesterday as the chemicals and inks group comfortably beat City profit forecasts.

First-half pre-tax profits of £5.3 million, up from £2 million last year, prompted upgrades from analysts, who now expect the company to make £10-11 million this year. Brent is recovering from several years of declining profits.

The star performer was the imaging management divi-

sion, which looks after packaging. New customers, including Nestlé and Iceland, helped to push up sales 26 per cent to £15.8 million and lift profits from £800,000 to £2 million.

Cost-cutting in the industrial chemicals business lifted profits to £2.5 million (£1.8 million) on sales slightly higher at £30.9 million.

Keith Hutchings, chief executive, said the inks and coatings arm had turned down contracts because of

fierce price competition. Profits were modestly higher at £2.2 million. Brent is discussing new opportunities that will enable this business to grow. Mr Hutchings said: "Over the next six months to a year, we will carry on improving the quality of the business, being very tough on costs, and growing the business organically."

Brent is raising the interim dividend to 1p a share (0.6p).

Tempus, page 26

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THE
TIMESCITY
DIARY

Millwall boss comes clean

NEWS from out West where Peter Mead, joint chairman of Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO, the advertising agency, was spotted in Kew, with police tailing the bumper of his Aston Martin Vantage.

On his way home from a football match in Peterborough in the early hours of the morning, Mead was stopped and accused of "straddling the cycle lane". Refusing to step outside his monstrous vehicle, Mead declared that he had not touched a drop of alcohol for a month. When the police suggested that they thought he was hiding something, Mead came clean: "Yes, I am, I'm chairman of Millwall."

Money to burn

BRITISH GAS launched an investigation yesterday after admitting that it had sent a customer in York 12 letters confirming the date of a central heating check-up. Sylvia Dunn, of Copmanthorpe, near York, was flabbergasted when she received the mountain of mail in response to her request for confirmation of the service visit. "What a complete waste of money," she complains. "They cost a lot in postage, but you can only imagine what they cost in administration." British Gas says that it is treating the case as a matter of urgency, but the inquiry is probably too late for Mrs Dunn, who plans to cancel her £112 service contract and recruit a local person instead.

TESCO TROLLEYS NOW 12% BIGGER



MacLaurin office

A SECTION of Tesco's staff is on the move to a former ICI building in Welwyn Garden City. The supermarket group has spent £18.5 million on the 110,000 sq ft offices in Shire Park, rather than knock down Old Tesco House, which is across the road from the current offices used by the staff in Cheshunt and which Tesco had intended to rebuild from scratch. Word has it that the new building will be named after Sir Ian MacLaurin when he stands down next June. But where will the rehoused staff buy their prawn and avocado sandwiches at lunchtime? Welwyn Garden City offers only a Sainsbury's or Waitrose?

On the ball

A HAT trick for Chris Wright, the boss of Chrysalis and nouveau sports mogul, whose three teams came good last weekend. Wings in Rugby Union, QPR in football, and Sheffield Sharks in basketball, were all winners. Alas, none of Wright's racehorses were running, or he could have secured a clean sweep.

Kaye role

MSL, the recruitment advertising and executive search business, which is to be listed on the Alternative Investment Market this month, has announced the appointment of Michael Kaye, chairman of M&C Saatchi, as a non-executive director. MSL was acquired by Saatchi & Saatchi in 1984 and bought out of Saatchi in 1992 by Garry Long. MSL's current chairman, So the Saatchi connection continues...

MORAG PRESTON

Women's leaders set out new agenda for action

Philip Bassett
on a drive to
win manifesto
commitments
on equality

Women currently constitute just under half of Britain's workforce. Forecasts suggest that women workers will form a majority early in the new century. Business is — slowly — adapting to that. So, too, is politics. But Britain's main women's organisations today are pressing for faster change and, in particular, clear commitments to equality issues in the coming election.

Kamlesh Bahl, who chairs the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), is making the economic and business impact of equality a central part of the overall case for equal treatment — at work, in the home, in general.

Moving round the circuits of the CBI, chambers of commerce, and governmental and women's networks, she strives to ensure that equality issues are not relegated to the economic margins, but are seen as crucial to business and economic life.

Today the EOC and the Women's National Committee (WNC), the official independent body offering advice to the Government on women's issues, go one step further. In issuing a new national agenda for action, they challenge the main political parties to include in their election manifestos firm commitments on equality within the framework not just of social justice but of economic efficiency in terms of improving Britain's economic performance and its international competitiveness.

Liz Bavidge, co-chairman of the WNC, says: "Studies show that it is the way women vote that forms the Government." Kamlesh Bahl agrees: "Our message to the politicians today is: ignore this agenda at your peril."

Economic equality, particularly in the workplace, is a still new aspect of the relationship between business and politics, but women's leaders insist it is a central one.

In the general election in 1992, for example, women's votes held largely steadfast, showing a swing of only half a



Women have made progress in the workplace but the pace of change in equality is a key issue

percentage point from Conservative to Labour, while men showed a 3.5 per cent swing.

Women — who now form 51 per cent of the electorate — showed a clear Conservative preference: 44 per cent of women voted Tory, as against 41 per cent of men, while 37 per cent of men voted Labour, against only 34 per cent of women. The Liberal Democrats polled 18 per cent among each sex.

New research by the Fawcett Society, a pressure group, shows that women now vote in larger numbers than men and that the majority of floating voters are female. The society says that 23 per cent of women have not yet decided how they will vote at the next

election, compared with 16 per cent of men. Among those who voted Conservative at the last election, twice as many women, 12 per cent, as men are now undecided about how to vote.

Faced with such facts, the EOC and WNC are targeting political leaders and local constituencies about a range of equality issues based on a set of ten policy papers that the two organisations are publishing today.

Although some of the issues are primarily social — women's participation in decision-making, violence against women — most are determinedly economic, in line with the EOC's new thrust: the cost and the benefits to employers

of, for example, childcare, education and training.

EOC and WNC leaders are careful not to align themselves with any particular political party and are prominently displaying endorsements of their approach from John Major, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown.

Labour is giving thought to combining the EOC with the Commission for Racial Equality and other bodies in a new equality commission, but some Conservatives have already found the EOC and similar organisations too interventionist and regulatory for their tastes.

Among the more contentious areas being proposed by women's leaders is action on

some politically charged issues. For example, the EOC and the WNC endorse the principle of a minimum wage — supported by Labour, opposed by the Government — as one important method of trying to bridge the pay gap between men and women, which sticks stubbornly at about 20 per cent.

The two bodies are making their usual and long ignored call for a rationalisation of legislation on equality issues. Business would agree rapidly to some of this. Maternity rights under law, for instance, are currently governed by 18 different pieces of legislation under three entirely different government departments.

But business is likely to be less happy with calls for the political parties to commit themselves to "equal rights and protection for all workers, irrespective of their patterns of work or status".

The Government is opposed to such blanket treatment and is bracing itself for what it expects will be a defeat shortly in the European Court on the 48-hour working week.

And although John Smith, the former Labour leader, pledged the party to precisely such a commitment, key union leaders are convinced that the new leadership is trying to abandon it — putting the EOC and the WNC beyond the current Opposition.

Kamlesh Bahl insists that such differences on particular points of policy are precisely what the new pre-election exercise is trying to show — not to score any political and, particularly, not party political points. Instead the aim is to try to draw from the main parties policy proposals and commitments on equality issues that will both allow women, and men, to inform their electoral choice fully and allow the EOC and the WNC to demonstrate which policies offer most for equality in terms of its contribution to economic performance and competitiveness.

When the two groups, and the EOC for Northern Ireland, which is also promoting the campaign today, get their findings in three to four months' time, after meetings all the party leaders, they say they will publish the results, testing against how they will best marry equality and economic issues.

Kamlesh Bahl says: "It's not our job to make a recommendation to women, or men, on how they should vote. But the voting patterns of women in particular have been recognised by all the political parties as a factor that will make a difference in the election of the next government."



ANTHONY HARRIS

Why Rubin is wrong about EC stability

Not many Europeans were listening when, in the only contentious speech at the Democrat convention, Ron Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary, fired a shot across the bows of the Community. European policies, he said, were in danger of becoming excessively deflationary, and a threat to world growth. His target, all commentators seem to agree, was the Finance Ministers about to meet in Dublin are away was not the struggle to achieve Maastricht convergence (which America is trying to treat as a purely internal folly) but the proposed stability pact to follow EMU. This would make fiscal restraint not just an exam crisis, but a permanent commitment: deficit, or else.

Most analysts seem to agree with Rubin: but though a clumsily drafted stability pact could be a threat to growth, the idea that fiscal restraint always means recession is wrong. Rubin should know this: the US is enjoying one of its longest upswings while reducing the Federal deficit faster than anyone thought possible; Japan remains in recession despite a huge fiscal injection. The trouble is not that the conventional wisdom — fiscal policy controls growth, monetary policy controls inflation — is grossly oversimplified. It is perverse.

Look at inflation, for a start. This has fallen — again, faster than forecast — in every advanced industrial country; and central bankers are sickeningly self-satisfied about it. But did they have much to do with it? Look round the world, and you will see every kind of central bank policy: strict targeting in Germany, follow-my-leader in Paris, seat-of-the-pants in London, pragmatism in Washington, and reckless monetary expansion in Tokyo. No central banking triumph there.

Structural change and global trade, then? Yes, in the US and Britain; but across the Channel (and still more in Japan) trade remains partly protected, and structural reform has hardly begun. But nearly all these countries do have one thing in com-

mon: a planned fiscal squeeze, even if it has yet to work in countries with inadequate growth. Japan, the exception, has suffered a financial collapse, the most powerful of all deflators. So what might a future historian conclude? Surely that, barring nasty accidents, it is fiscal rather than monetary policy that governs inflation. And if he contrasts the policies of the Fed and Bundesbank, he may also conclude that it is monetary policy which determines growth. In short, the reverse of the conventional wisdom. And Enoch Powell, who argued that government borrowing is the sole source of inflation, was right all along.

The reasoning behind this is common sense: businesses borrow to expand; consumers plan to repay; but governments just borrow. Only they, in the long term, do not demand, but not to supply, which is inflationary. That was the Lawson philosophy; and though he forgot to guard against financial speculation, it is basically sound.

Did Polonius, then — "Neither a borrower nor a lender be" — lay down the Golden Rule? Not quite; for as is shown by the US, success depends not just on restraint, but on balance. If high taxes are balanced by cheap credit, (a vote of thanks to Alan Greenspan), you can hope for investment-led growth. But where central bankers remain wedded to sado-monetarism, a fiscal squeeze means recession. The plenitude seems to have dropped in the Bundesbank, though dreadfully late in the day; but there has not yet been any sign of "Greenspan thinking" in the European Monetary Institute. That could mean Euro-sclerosis, in good earnest.

So are Rubin's fears of Euro-drag justified? Very possibly; but he was not the right man to voice them. The warning should have come not from the Treasury Secretary to other finance ministers, but from Alan Greenspan to his smug counterpart at Jackson Hole.

Singapore plays on squeaky clean image to win tourists

Singapore is often vilified as the ultimate Big Brother state — and not without reason. The flow of information is tightly controlled. Littering and smoking invite stiff fines. The feared cane, the *rattan*, is ready to mete out punishment to offenders. Nick Leeson, the rogue Barings trader, could hardly have picked a worse place in which to conduct his illicit trading activities.

The Barings affair caused deep embarrassment in Singapore, as much for the suggestion that local supervision was inadequate as for the emphasis placed on the state's authoritarianism. With a new book on the debate threatening to open old wounds, officials have embarked on a further round of rule-tightening.

Trading on the Singapore International Monetary Exchange (Simex) has come under closer supervision, and links with foreign regulators, notably the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), have been strengthened. The discovery of irregularities at Morgan Grenfell and Jardine Fleming has prompted a further review of fund management systems and controls.

But Singapore's desire to control extends far beyond the realm of media and commerce. Its new target is the future — and the millions of tourists forecast to visit Asia in the next few years. Authorities have launched a £140 million promotional drive, aimed at positioning Singapore as the business and tourism hub of South-East Asia. As always, little has been left to chance.

Tourism worldwide is a \$3.6 trillion industry, employing 255 million people, and accounting for 10.7 per cent of world GDP, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council. By 2006, tourism-related jobs are set to top 385 million, in an industry worth an estimated \$7.1 trillion — 11.5



Restrictions and a safe environment may be the things that attract visitors to Singapore

pore is anxious to tap in to this growth industry, boosting tourism revenues, and shifting the balance away from its traditional high-tech manufacturing base.

The first stage involves boosting Singapore's charms as a destination. As a city state, it cannot begin to compete with the jungles and beaches of Malaysia, Thailand and Bali. What it can do is play on its squeaky clean image, offering a safe and efficient place in which to start one's visit.

The idea is to transform popular areas such as Chinatown and Orchard Road into "thematic zones", refurbishing disused warehouses, and playing up Singapore's historical roots. Transport and entrance fees will be covered by a single Singapore Tourist Card.

Aaron Hung, regional UK director for the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board (STPB), maintains that Singapore's attractions more than

experiences" elsewhere in Asia. Mr Hung said: "Being hassled by touts at the airport can be a memorable experience. Losing your wallet can be a memorable experience."

He added: "Singapore has had a reputation for tearing things down. We realise that in the process of modernising Singapore we did tear down several buildings, but, in the last few years, the emphasis has been on restoration rather than demolishing things."

Mr Hung said there is an increased emphasis on co-operating with neighbours, in an effort to boost tourism numbers — "co-operation", as it has been dubbed. An example is Bintan Island in Indonesia, 45 minutes away by catamaran, where Singaporean and Indonesian money is funding a range of joint-venture resorts. The STPB intends to take on the role of investment bureau

sure groups through tax breaks and other incentives. Efforts are ongoing to persuade European companies to choose Singapore for their regional Asian headquarters.

Convention numbers will be boosted through a 60,000 sq ft convention centre. The number of cruise ships calling at Singapore is racing ahead — ship calls increased from 143 to 986 between 1990 and 1994 — and the harbour terminus is due for expansion.

Can they pull it off? Singapore predicts visitor numbers will increase 6.5 per cent per annum over the next five years, lifting arrivals from seven million this year to ten million by the year 2000. Tourism receipts are forecast to rise from \$512 billion to \$816 billion over the period. More than 70 per cent of Singapore's visitors are from within Asia, and sheer demographics might carry the day.

CMG

Continuing substantial growth

Summary interim results for the 6 months to 30 June 1996

| | 1996 | 1995 | Increase |
|--------------------|---------|--------|----------|
| Turnover | £116.6m | £94.6m | 23% |
| Operating profit | £21.2m | £8.6m | 30% |
| Profit before tax | £11.3m | £8.6m | 31% |
| Profit after tax | £7.1m | £5.3m | 34% |
| Earnings per share | 11.4p | 8.9p | 28% |
| Interim dividend | 2.0p | 1.6p* | 25% |

(payable on 20 November 1996 to all shareholders on the share register on 15 October 1996. Ex-dividend date is 7 October.)

- Pre-tax profits up 31% to £11.3 million
- 23% growth in Group turnover virtually all organic
- Group operating margin up from 9.1% to 9.6%
- Netherlands strong growth continues: turnover up 32% to £79.8 million
- UK improvement gathers pace: profits up 78% to £1.7 million
- Average staff numbers 2880, up 26% on same period last year

On the outlook for the remainder of the year, CMG Chairman Cor Stutterheim said, "The Group performance since the end of June continues to be very satisfactory and the principal markets in which we operate remain strong. Having delivered good results in the first half of the year, we are confident that the second half, traditionally CMG's stronger half, will enable us to deliver very good results for the full year. We remain well placed to benefit from the strong growth anticipated for our industry in the years ahead."

CMG plc is a leading European Information Technology services group. Established in 1964, CMG now operates in more than 30 countries from its bases in the UK, The Netherlands and Germany. The Group is listed on the London and Amsterdam Stock Exchanges.

CMG supplies systems development, management consultancy and advanced technology services in the finance, transport, trade & industry, energy, telecommunications and public sectors. The Group also provides managed information processing services, including payroll and personnel.

Copies of the full Interim Report, which will be sent to shareholders week commencing 23 September, may be obtained from Michael Harrington, Group Communications, CMG plc, 100, Victoria Road, London W14 7LH.


THE TIMES WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18 1996

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RIS HARRIS

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| Time (weeks) | Male (%) | Female (%) |
|--------------|----------|------------|
| 0 | 15 | 15 |
| 2 | 18 | 18 |
| 4 | 22 | 22 |
| 6 | 25 | 25 |
| 8 | 28 | 28 |
| 10 | 32 | 32 |
| 12 | 35 | 35 |

| Time (weeks) | Male (%) | Female (%) |
|--------------|----------|------------|
| 0 | 15 | 15 |
| 2 | 18 | 18 |
| 4 | 22 | 22 |
| 6 | 25 | 25 |
| 8 | 28 | 28 |
| 10 | 32 | 32 |
| 12 | 35 | 35 |

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Science – or fiction?

Television shows about the supernatural are under attack, reports Maggie Brown

The hypnotist Paul McKenna and his team of producers are currently scouring the globe for the strange and perhaps true phenomena which make *The Paranormal World Of Paul McKenna* an ITV hit.

But the seven-part series scheduled for next year is being assembled in an ugly atmosphere. In the past few weeks the scientific establishment has been lining up to debunk the growing public appetite for what it calls manipulative programming, such as *Strange But True*, with Michael Aspel, *Out Of This World* and *Secrets Of The Paranormal*, which are tapping into the same credulous "need to believe" vein as *The X Files*.

Television is under attack for elevating the need to entertain over the scientific necessity to carry out stringent tests. The suggestion is that if properly controlled experiments were conducted, most phenomena would crumble.

Leading the attack is the formidable Professor Richard Dawkins, of the Public Understanding of Science group at Oxford University, who says that "the Universe is quite odd enough to need no help from pseudoscientific charlatans". His point, and it is a good one, is that "paranormal claims must be treated with scientific scepticism".

He mocks an incident in a recent BBC1 *Out Of This World* episode when Carol Vorderman spent a night alone in a haunted hotel and felt "pretty spooky in one room, that was abnormally cold". He says that mind readers should be kept apart in sealed rooms when being tested and the soles of their shoes checked for radio transmitters.

The director-general of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Dr Richard Pike, wrote to *The Times* this month on behalf of his members, pleading for television to adopt a more scientific approach.

McKenna's producer Michael Latham, a former editor of *Tomorrow's World*, has decided, for his protection, to record on video the background to the experiments that will be shown in edited snippets. He defines these as happenings which fall outside normal experience, and scientifically inexplicable events. Telepathy, healing, reincarnation, ghosts, poltergeists, the ability to move objects without touching them — all these ever define this odd, but always fascinating territory, which television has blundered into.

But Latham knows he has to tread a thin line. He has to filter out the confidence-tricksters while preserving the element of mystery which makes these programmes top-rated. More than 40 per cent of viewers watched last Friday's *Strange But True* with Michael Aspel, for example.

The new McKenna series will show, Latham says, "remarkable scenes of healing" when people in their twenties (the young apparently heal the fastest) with grotesquely swollen, arthritic knees rise and walk. Then there is a "Uri Geller mark 2" — a Frenchman who can bend metal bars of aerospace steel even when



The X Files, with Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny, happily feeds viewers' obsession with the paranormal

they are placed within glass tubes, by concentrating like crazy. Last, but not least, is a group of people called remote viewers.

Remote viewers? These Americans are set the challenge of meeting the presenter on a certain day and at a certain time, but at no agreed place. The rendezvous has been achieved, to general astonishment, and captured on film. The "remote viewer" drew a picture of where to meet.

All these are the sort of incidents which are the bread and butter of the glut of programmes about the paranormal that show no sign of fading from the schedules.

Paul Corley, the controller of factual programmes at the ITV Network Centre, responds to the critics, which also include some worried television executives, by saying that these programmes are popular, and that scientists are being a bit po-faced.

Recent discoveries, such as the potential proof of life on Mars, underscored the widespread belief that scientists do not know everything, and that

much of the mystery of life, including religious belief, is unexplained and beyond the traditional disciplines of rational science, he says.

Richard Simons, who has risen to become Controller of Programmes at the ITV company Meridian after successfully spotting the paranormal boom, echoes this point. There are few factual programmes which work as popular ratings-pullers across the generations, certainly no straightforward science programmes.

And he completely repudiates the idea that this genre exploits gullible people.

"Complete rubbish. The viewer is bright," says Simons, but is attracted to programme ideas which chime into the soul-searching created by the new millennium. There is also a huge growth in published research on the paranormal.

Giles Oakley, head of BBC community programmes — which made a series of programmes called *Secrets Of*

The Paranormal in which a faith healer described how he was really a 2,000-year-old Egyptian — says he has been shaken by the vitriol his series provoked.

Jana Bennett, head of BBC science programmes, which paired Gillian Anderson of *The X Files* with *Future Fantastic*, has said it is a mistake to debunk people's propensity to believe.

Yet even sympathetic scientists are alienated by what is being done on television. Dr Richard Wiseman, of the University of Hertfordshire in Hatfield, runs a unit on the paranormal. He is involved as a consultant in most of the paranormal programmes. He was the resident sceptic on *Out Of This World* and showed that the apparent haunting of a woman by a 16th-century farmer (who left messages on the computer in Old English) was a hoax. He says that Professor Dawkins has a point: "I'm not as damning as him. But some of

these programmes are full of the most god-awful science. The fact is these shows know the big viewing figures come from saying this is genuine.

"I've found that programme-makers are receptive of proper controls, if they are sold properly. Equally, scientists don't understand how to get their message across to eight million viewers."

Professor Bob Morris, who occupies the Koestler Chair of Parapsychology at Edinburgh University, is even more dismissive. "I started watching these programmes and then stopped. We try to do respectable scientific research. These are just driven by ratings and entertainment."

What the current debate shows is that the cultural divide between scientists and arts-based generalist culture remains as deep as when C.P. Snow pinned it down in the Fifties.

And that while millions tune in to these programmes there is no sign of a new generation of popular science series, fronted by modern David Bellamy and David Attenborough-style communicators, anywhere on the horizon. Whose fault is that?

'Mind readers should be checked for hidden radios'

Sex raises its ugly headline in top men's magazines

The serious men's glossies are following their rivals in a rush to titillate the reader, says Joe Joseph

Editors of men's magazines seem to think that they can put any old beautiful woman on their cover, and the entire male population will automatically drool, which is simply not true. Men are more complicated and sensitive than that. Men will only drool if the woman also has other appealing qualities, such as a warm nature, healthy teeth, and a winning smile. Breasts like torpedoes always help.

But isn't this what we expect from *Playboy* and *Penthouse*, rather than from the posher men's mags like *GQ* and *Esquire* which are supposed to be helping us chaps lead a fuller life by offering the latest on literature, restaurants, clothes, health and finance? Frankly, if it's nipples you're after, shouldn't you just be reaching a little higher up the shelves? I mean, if you're such a wimp of a man that you are too embarrassed to take a copy of *Penthouse* from the magazine shelf to the check-out, then won't all those other articles they publish in *Esquire* and *GQ* about men who are in control of their lives be way beyond your emotional reach?

October's issues of the top men's titles have enough breasts on the covers to keep Jack Nicholson busy for a month. *GQ*'s cover girl is Gossard bra model Sophie Anderson, who, forsaking the legendary Wonderbra, poses in a much sexier, more provocative, nipple-baring, diaphanous bra. This is a lesser for several pages inside on which Sophie — who appeared on billboards around Britain in June with the ad line "Who says a woman can't get pleasure from something soft" — is starkers.

Also every one of *GQ*'s cover lines has a nudge-nudge tone to it: "Living together: How to move in, move out and move on". "Tony Curtis still likes it hot".

Turn to the contents, though, and you'll be either disappointed or relieved to find that the magazine is fat with fine writing about J.G. Ballard, Bosnia, the continuing curse of heroin, an interview with Tony Curtis, all massaged into shape by Angus MacKinnon, its clever and civilised Editor.

Call it a sales con, call it desperation or call it perplexity. *Esquire*, edited by the accomplished Rosie Boycott, has always boasted that it has not joined its rivals in rushing to ape the success of *Loaded*. And it is true that it often has cover photos of big Hollywood names, such as Robert De Niro and Nick Cage. But for October it is offering Ulrika Jonsson, or rather "Ulrika goes on top". Again, once through the magazine's front door the reader trips over reams of writing on the arts, sport, travel, the return of chain gangs in Alabama, even the Bombay underworld.

But wait there are also confessions of a voyeur and an interview with Kimberly Hefner, Hugh's wife, with some underwear boob shots. *FHM* — or *For Him Magazine* — carries a busty cover picture of bra-clad Yasmine Bleeth (can't these girls afford frocks or a T-shirt?) and an inside article on "Fifty mistakes you make in bed" and one on "Fifteen secrets your girlfriend keeps from you". Counting skills are clearly a big asset for readers of *FHM*. Literary types looking for a little variety from the 72s might fall hungrily on the magazine *Maxim*. But *Maxim* is not, as you might assume, a literary journal rippling with witty adages by Oscar Wilde and George Bernard Shaw. Unless, of course, Wilde came up with "Yes, Yes, Oh yes! Be her best lover ever".

Other *Maxim* articles investigate "One man's holiday on a sex commune" (the title George Bernard Shaw almost chose before settling on *Man and Superman*) and the length of Michelle Norkett's legs, the girl in the Häagen-Dazs advertisements.

Now the point of *Esquire* and *GQ* was that they weren't *Playboy* and *Penthouse*. They were for men who knew girls, who didn't lock themselves in the bathroom with the October centrefold. Scared by the success of the laddish *Loaded*, some men's magazines have grown more piggish — without necessarily giving the whole hog. But monthlies like *Maxim* and *FHM* have rushed in where *GQ* and *Esquire* feared to tread. Sex helps to sell these to men who are too shy to buy something stronger.

Nineties Man hasn't got time for magazine foreplay: he likes to flick through quickly and then doze off. So the argument goes. He still likes to read about sex and to stare at Michelle's legs and Sophie's chest, but he likes to swot up on Louis de Bernières a little first.

The publishers of these men's magazines say they are appealing to all men's instincts, including their sexual appetite. But if you are going to move nipples out of *Mayfair* and *Men Only* because male readers like staring at nipples, it seems only sensible to insert a few nipples into *The Economist*, *Punch* and *Angling Weekly*. And can you imagine how many more people on the 18th floor might subscribe to *Forbes* or *Business Week* if they carried a Gillian Anderson centrefold each week?

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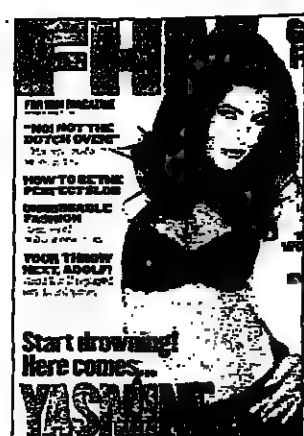
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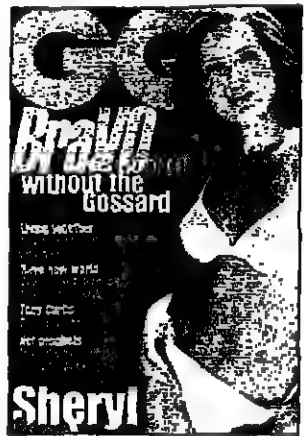
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FHM: counting on sex



GQ: hoping to lift sales



Esquire: Ulrika appeal



Maxim: leading lines

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Oasis split shock: what's the story, morning broadsheets?

Three editors decided that Tony Blair's plan to sever the link between Labour and the unions was the main story of the day, with *The Independent* opting for the Gulf. All, however, made Oasis their second story.

At *The Daily Telegraph*, deputy editor Sarah Sands had no difficulty in justifying the Oasis decision. The story had been treated in a spirit of nonplussed, slightly exasperated mock-seriousness, she said. Yes, Oasis was just a pop group and not really a proper story but most readers — and their children — had heard of them and would want to know what all the fuss was about. That spirit of mock-seriousness extended to an editorial in which the *Telegraph* brooded on Britpop, its hold on the hearts of the British people and the roles of Liam and Noel as its ambassadors.

Nor did Alan Rusbridger.

Yet the editors of Britain's broadsheets are all serious men whose main ambition is to sell more newspapers in the world's fiercest newspaper market. Most, moreover, are succeeding. With the solitary exception of *The Independent*, sales of all the broadsheets in August were up on a year ago.

Nor were their decisions on the Oasis story lightly made. It is on their front pages that editors display their news values and their sense of what interests readers. It is also where they are ruthlessly judged by newspaper buyers the next day.



Editor of *The Guardian* which also devoted most of page three and an editorial to the story. "You wouldn't be asking that question if you were under the age of 25," he said, although he admitted that some of his older executives had been puzzled by the display given to the story. When, as *The Guardian* had reported, 5 per cent of the British population had applied for tickets to the Oasis concert at Knebworth, they were obviously newsworthy.

The decision was easy for the tabloids. The split made three pages in the *Daily Mirror* and five in the *Daily*

Star, although the *Daily Express* and *Daily Mail* ran only plugs to inside pages. Both led on Tony Blair (an increasingly common habit in the *Daily Express*). Stuart Higgins, Editor of *The Sun*, who devoted eight pages to the story, including a poster on the centre spread, was not at all surprised by the attention that the broadsheets devoted to Oasis. "They are a cult — the new Beatles," he said. "Everybody wants rock'n'roll rebels. Phil Collins and Chris de Burgh wouldn't throw a ham sandwich at a donkey but Oasis have brightened up our lives."

Pop has got to have its bad boys. One of the best articles on the reasons for all the fuss was written by Decca Aitkenhead in the *Independent* on Sunday, who argued that Oasis were the first superstars the present generation could call their own: "If you are under 30, you face the following problems. 1. Your parents are insufferably smug about the brilliance of their youth. They had, as they will remind you, John Lennon, Mick Jagger and Jimi Hendrix. 2. To date, your generation has come up with Simon Le Bon, Gina G and the Smurfs. 3. Your parents doubt that you will still be singing along to Stock Aitken and Waterman songs in 20 years' time. 4. You suspect they're right."

So the editors defend their decisions convincingly, although some older readers probably remain uncon-

vinced. Yet newspapers cannot survive unless they constantly renew their franchise with the younger generation. Newspaper sales have been declining since the war, but I doubt that any generation of editors this century has been under quite such pressure to reverse that trend and to push up sales.

That competition is made all the fiercer by the self-evident fact that the younger generation are used to getting their news from radio and television. They have been reared on visual images, in the age of the soundbite and of jazziily designed magazines. Unless editors anticipate and react to the trends of the times, newspapers can quickly seem old-fashioned and boring.

Few of the critics, moreover, acknowledge that newspaper readers die. If one in 20 of its readers dies every year, *The Daily Telegraph* needs 50,000 new buyers simply to stand still. All editors want young readers to feel their newspapers speak to them as well as to the oldies. That is why Oasis featured so prominently on the front pages last week.

■ RADIO

Fifty years of crisis and self-doubt, yet Radio 3 survives and could prosper

■ OPERA

If it's Friday it must be the latest instalment in Stockhausen's epic opera cycle

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ DANCE

Northern Ballet Theatre takes a bite out of *Dracula*, but the result is unappetising

■ TOMORROW

Demi Moore goes starkers, but is the film any good? Read Geoff Brown on *Striptease*

Sssh! Someone might hear us

High ideals, low ratings: Radio 3's problems have not changed much in 50 years, says **Richard Morrison**

Who would begrudge Radio 3 its 50th birthday bash? Well, for a start there are all those BBC TV executives. They can't fathom why money is spent on an audience which is sometimes so sparse that it can be quantified only by physicists trained to observe very small particles. Even Lord Reith once said that the old Third Programme was "a waste of a precious wavelength". And he was one of the BBC's good guys.

Then there are the politicians and journalists who whine loudly, predictably and disingenuously about public money being spent on anything vaguely highbrow. And, in comic contrast, there is the platoon of discontents who think that Radio 3 isn't half as highbrow as it should be, and certainly not a patch on the intellectual glories that came marching bravely across the ether in some dimly remembered golden age, generally located in the late 1940s.

True, this platoon is on the small side. But it has been ferociously trained by Brigadier Bamberg Cassaigne and Corporal Gerald Kaufman to lob epistolary grenades at *The Times* whenever a Radio 3 Controller dares to shift his programmes round a bit.

Who else? Well, millions of classical music fans express their feelings about Radio 3 by tuning to Classic FM. So I guess that they won't be draping the bunting round the wireless on September 24. And others will be looking at the celebrations planned for the day, noting a programme in which "Peter Hall, Antonio Fraser, George Steiner and Brian Sewell recall the impact of the Third Programme on their lives and careers", and making plans to go deep-sea diving that weekend.

Finally, there are all those disenfranchised former Radio 3 Control-

lers, producers and announcers whose mutual hatred is exceeded only by their contempt for their successors. And if you think that this is a gross slur on eminent broadcasters, you haven't read Humphrey Carpenter's new history of Radio 3, *The Envy of the World* (reviewed in *The Times* tomorrow). No wonder that the present Controller, Nicholas Kenyon, quipped to the press last week:

While Radio 3 survives, an unfashionable idealism also survives

"I have done my best to die before this book is published."

So will anybody be celebrating Radio 3's birthday — apart from Sir Peter, Lady Antonia, old Uncle George Steiner and all? And, more importantly, should they? I don't know the answer to the first question. But to the second I give a resounding yes, and I surprise even myself by typing that word.

For years I found the tone of Radio 3 hopelessly complacent, smug and condescending: a snobby club with an upmarket juke-box. Now its tone is fine, but it is having to engage in a desperate struggle with Classic FM for the attention of middle-brow music-lovers that it should have captured in the 45 years when it had no competition. For failing to go even halfway towards meeting the needs of that huge potential audience, it has to go the extra mile now.

Yet if Radio 3's history is a tale of

misfits, it is also a story of noble intentions. And I shall celebrate on September 29 because, while Radio 3 survives, a particular strain of unfashionable idealism also survives. It is the idealism which holds that the arts should have a place at the centre of any civilised society, and that only broadcasting can achieve this.

That idealism was strong when we were "building the peace" after 1945. What is horrifying is how quickly it waned. Far from heralding a golden age, the Third Programme was in crisis a year after it began. Doubts that were to return again and again were already being aired. "Too many items smell of the dust of a don's study," the *Daily Express* said in 1947, when the Third's audience was down to two listeners in every thousand.

Bizarre tricks were soon being tried to lure people to the Third. Benny Hill was engaged for a comedy programme. Dance bands rubbed shoulders with Bertrand Russell. Marilyn Monroe was approached to play the title role in *Lysistrata* (sadly she declined).

And the whole debate about whether radio had a future as a "serious medium" or simply as aural wallpaper — a question which is now seen as central to the Radio 3 v Classic FM battle — was already simmering in the 1960s. Benjamin Britten called the loud-speaker "the enemy of music". But William Mann, *The Times* music critic, declared officially that Mozart and Haydn would not turn in their graves if their music was used to accompany household chores.

Of course there were famous early triumphs: a five-hour production of Shaw's *Man and Superman* that "riveted" listeners to their chairs; Dylan Thomas, drunk yet majestically articulate, staggering from The George into Broadcasting House to record some priceless



This was their finest hour: Dylan Thomas broadcasting for the Third in 1948, overseen by the veteran producer Douglas Cleverdon

script, and then posthumously giving the Third Programme its greatest night, *Under Milk Wood*: premieres by Beckett, Pinter, young Stoppard. And there was surely a real buzz in the Sixties, when William Glock used the network to revolutionise British musical life, and the poetry producer George MacBeth gave airtime to Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg.

But what is depressing about the Third's history is how rarely it did generate that buzz. Whenever the network is threatened, the great and the good have rallied round, as if venerating a totem pole. That was

as true in 1957, when Eliot, Vaughan Williams and Olivier stormed into Broadcasting House to complain about cuts, as it is today. But do they tune to its programmes? In 1974 Radio 3's Controller discovered that even his own staff didn't listen to Radio 3. If it didn't exist, would we invent it today? Probably not. We wouldn't have the nerve or the vision. Yet the need for a sane, cultured, horizon-widening antidote to the ephemeral jabber of our cluttered airwaves has never been greater. Radio 3 is actually better placed to fulfil that role now than ever before. Its

presenters sound like cheerful enthusiasts, not supercilious underdogs. It has largely rid itself of the generation of producers who recycled their PhD theses as "programme ideas". And it does now believe in publicising its choicest morsels, rather than concealing them lest they attract what someone once called "the wrong sort of audience".

But to prosper, Radio 3 must first survive — and the three most important things needed for survival in the modern BBC are ratings, ratings and ratings. Radio 3's ratings won't go up unless all those

who admire it in theory actually listen to it in practice. Just telling people that it is the "envy of the world" isn't enough. And anyway, that useful tag is now decades old.

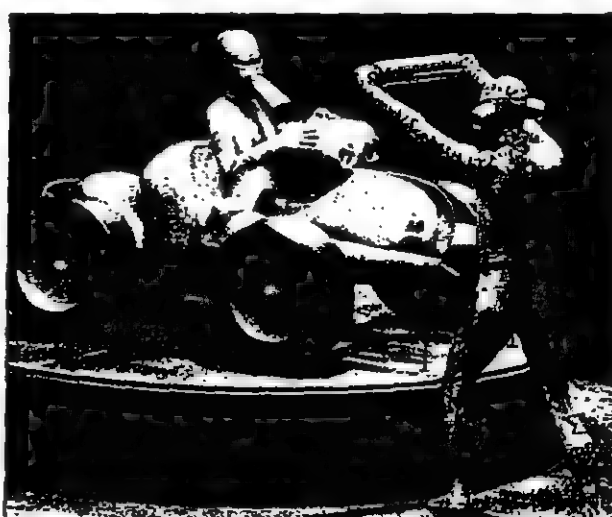
On September 29 Radio 3 devotes the day to its 50th anniversary celebration. Hosted by Humphrey Carpenter the day includes live concerts, discussions, archive recordings, premieres, and the classic 1957 recording of Beckett's *All That Fall*.

Other anniversary events include a new radio version (Oct 20) of Shaw's *Man and Superman*, directed by Sir Peter Hall and starring Ralph Fiennes, Dame Judi Dench and Juliet Stevenson

Stockhausen's alien craft

I imagine that beings from another planet have picked up a television broadcast of a play from Earth. The signal is badly corrupted: not many of the characters can be made out, almost none of the text, and whole scenes have been lost. Still, the beings decide to put on their own performance of what they can piece together. Their drama, like the original, lasts for three hours, but the only characters are a man in black, a woman in white with flowers, and a king, all moving through elongated versions of the scenes that could be partly deciphered: *Ghostly Apparition*, *First Self-Communing* and so on.

This is approximately the impression made by Stockhausen's *Freitag*, the fifth opera to be completed of his *Licht* cycle, which had its first performance last week. Each of the *Licht* operas so far has had less plot than the last, and *Freitag*'s main action is pared to a few moments. Friday is the day of temptation, and the day also of Eve and Lucifer. Eve is persuaded by Lucifer, an emanation of Lucifer, to bear a child by his son Kaino. Meanwhile, the theme of miscegenation is played out on another plane by 12 couples (human, animal and inanimate) represented by dancers, and there are troops of children who, although doubtfully fixed to the storyline, contribute liveliness and charm.



Dancers add to the sung message of Stockhausen's *Freitag*

OPERA
Freitag aus Licht
Leipzig Opera

music is also the warm, fluid medium which supports the soloists on stage: three singers in the named roles, plus flautist (Pasveer again) and bass-hornist (Suzanne Stephens) as shadows of Eve. This almost amniotic bathing of electronic music, the slow motion and the presence of children, all link the new opera with *Montag*, the segment of *Licht* that was principally Eve's and concerned with birth. But *Freitag* is distinguished by its pairings, and by how those pairings are

musically reflected in twinned melodies that often move in contrary motion.

The melodies avoid, often by slowness, any conventional expressive effect: such things as the love scene or Eve's aria of repentance are big musical moments but psychologically null. This is Stockhausen's way. Each of his operas is an instruction, not in how to feel, but to listen: hence the importance of instrumentalists as stage performers and the motif — emphasised here by the children — of education.

In Leipzig the joy of the children was infectious, and a great lesson in how the very young can relish the challenge of new music. Less happy, though, was the division of the cast into white (a blonde-wigged Eve, with pale children in pastel blue) and black (Ludon, Kaino and more children all made up as stage Africans), with a strongly implied connection to the cycle's central metaphor of light and darkness. It is not enough here to be naive.

The vocal soloists all commanded the necessary statue-like manner and effortless delivery. Angela Tunstall was the angelically bright Eve, and Nicholas (Sherwood) the stern-tortured Ludon. There was also excellent work from Uwe Wenz (director), Johannes Conen (designer) and Johannes Böing (choreographer).

PAUL GRIFFITHS

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CHANGING TIMES

Undead not at all well

DANCE

Dracula
Alhambra, Bradford

through the act of dancing. What little there is alternates between the serviceable and the droll, and even the homoerotic duet between hapless Jonathan Harker and his mysterious Transylvanian host evinces no stirrings of a movement language. Philip Feeney's commissioned score is a pastiche of Hollywood's back catalogue — the spooky woodwind whining of cheap horror flicks, the lush strings

of black-and-white weepies. Yet again, the designer Lez Brotherton proves the most adept of the creative team (he has been responsible for several NBT productions). *Dracula*'s dark, musty castle, with its subversive red lanterns, is wonderfully evocative and quite glamorous in its way.

The performers of Northern Ballet Theatre are fine actors (which is to Gable's credit), but one would like to see them dance, too. Denis Malinkine was tall and impressive as the opening night *Dracula*, although shamefully underused. Between whooshing around in his red cape and stalking after his prey, Malinkine didn't have much scope to take command of the ballet.

Omar Gordon as Harker suffered the most from underdeveloped characterisation, but Jayne Regan (Mina Harker) did get to grow as the night wore on. Charlotte Broom was lovely as Lucy, and Jeremy Kerridge scarily believable as the mental patient, Mr Renfield.

DEBRA CRAINE



■ VISUAL ART

Facelift: the National Portrait Gallery takes the wraps off its revitalised new rooms



■ POP

Johnny Mathis cruises and croons through a night of exactly what you might expect

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ OFFER 1

Special prices on tickets for the latest comedy directed by the evergreen Ray Cooney ...



■ OFFER 2

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VISUAL ART: Isabel Carlisle reports how an architect's designs have transformed the third floor of the National Portrait Gallery

Victorians cast in a better light

Letting architects loose in art galleries is not always a good idea. The danger is that creating a new interior actually makes it more difficult to look at the art.

The National Portrait Gallery's third floor has been taken to pieces and reassembled by the architect Piers Gough over the last year and, far from being an intrusion, it is a huge success. What used to be a stuffy, dingy display of Victorian portraits has literally had the light let in on it. The windows of the original 1896 building have been uncovered and, for the first time in a long while, there is natural daylight in the galleries. Those forbidding Victorians look noticeably more benign, and their transformed rooms are such a pleasure to be in that I intend to strike up a permanent acquaintance.

The first thing that you notice on entering is not a painted portrait but a plaster cast of a large full-length statue by William Thedde

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in Anglo-Saxon dress. Look beyond that to the end wall of the entrance corridor and you see three shelves of plaster busts of Victorian worthies, painted black to look like bronze, including Tennyson, Napier and Parnell. Sculpture has at long last been brought out of the closet and given an equal prominence with painting.

The integration of sculpture with painting is even more evident in the long central corridor. There, white marble busts on specially made carved wooden brackets project about a foot from the wall on either side and, looking down the length of the corridor, create the vista of a sculpture gallery. It is only once you are standing in the space that you see the busts alternate with oil portraits.

Throughout, partitions from the 1970s have been cleared away to reveal the 19th-century interiors. Any space gained has been used to reduce crowding rather than to

hang more works. On the walls the shimmer of silk, in various combinations of shot colours, lightens all the rooms and bestows something of the atmosphere of a drawing room. It is particularly sumptuous in the "Turn of Century" room, where the walls are in iridescent shades of yellow, blue and green.

Standing in this room and looking back into "Late Victorian Arts" you notice another new and theatrical feature. Portraits are angled out from the walls on adjustable brackets in such a way that dialogues are set up between rooms and between portraits. So the decadent illustrator Aubrey Beardsley (painted by Jacques-Emile Blanche) gazes through the door at Gwen and Augustus John and past a whole wall of Sargent portraits, Henry James among them.

A room on the First World War and a massive group portrait of *Some Statesmen of the First War* by James Guthrie separate the earlier displays from the later (up to 1960). Beyond this is the 1930s extension given by Lord Duveen, and a gallery previously used for temporary exhibitions. This room holds the greatest and most delightful surprises. Double-sided glass "walls" break up the space and allow it to be hung thematically but, because the panels are transparent, themes such as art and politics link in unexpected ways: looking past the portrait of Churchill by Sickert you see the self-portrait of Dame Laura Knight painting a nude model.

Curving painted steel pedestals, one at the end of each glass wall, hold sculpted heads. Maurice Lambert's bronze head of Sir William Walton looks across to the aluminium cast of a bust of Dame Edith Sitwell: her poetry famously combined with Walton's music in *Facade*. There is a glass wall of five Bloomsbury portraits and, elsewhere, the bronze head and gesturing hands of Sir Thomas Becham have been attached to a glass panel, appearing to float in space.

The original trigger for this new display was the need to upgrade lighting, fire prevention systems and electrical wiring. Money for this has come in the form of grant-aid from the Department of National Heritage. The cost of the more visible changes was met by the profits of a travelling exhibition called *Treasures of the National Portrait Gallery* that made five stops in Japan. This is the first material change to the galleries for which Charles Saumarez Smith, the director of the National Portrait Gallery, has been responsible. It will change our perceptions and make the gallery a far more accessible and enjoyable place to visit.



Piers Gough's glass "walls" break up the space and allow it to be hung thematically, linking art and politics in unexpected ways

Richard Cork continues his daily series on the glories of the British Museum's magnificent Mysteries of Ancient China show



GROUP OF SEVEN SERVANT FIGURES

THIS delightful cluster of painted wooden figures was excavated in 1975 from a tomb at Fenghuangshan, Hubei province. They belonged to a group of 23 servants, discovered alongside horse-drawn carriages and ox-drawn carts. The lady buried there must have enjoyed considerable wealth. According to an inventory of the tomb goods, written on 74 wooden strips, the servants all performed clearly defined roles. The first in line is a male guard or supervisor, clasping a halberd with hands obscured by his long sleeves. Behind him is a female servant arrayed in a flowing orange outer garment, and the woman beyond her is a special confidante of the mistress. The smaller woman behind her had a more modest status. To judge by their axes, spades and hoes, the last trio worked on the lady's estate. The group reveals the descending order of rank within the social structure of the Han period, dating from the 2nd century BC.

● Mysteries of Ancient China, sponsored by The Times, is at the British Museum to Jan 5. Admission £5; bookings on 0171-420 0000
TOMORROW: A Lamp in the Form of a Tree

Laughter lines

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

September 30. The play, about the shenanigans of two young men trying to defraud the Department of Social Security, is written by Michael Cooney and produced by his father, the famous Ray. It stars Bradley Walsh and Nick Wilton, together with long-standing Cooney stalwarts Brian Murphy, Frank Thornton, Jean Fergusson and Anita Graham. Top-priced tickets £18 (normally £22) for the 8pm performance. To book, telephone 0171-369 1735

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● NORTHERN Stage's adaptation of George Orwell's classic political allegory *Animal Farm* is a fast and physical piece of theatre. Buy two tickets for the price of one for performances at:

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COVENTRY, Warwick Arts Centre, Oct 11-12. Tickets normally £12.50. Tel 01203 524524

TAUNTON, Brewhouse Theatre, Oct 15. Tickets normally £10. Tel 01823 283244

MIDDLESBROUGH, Little Theatre, Oct 22. Tickets normally £7. Tel 01642 815181

DUNDEE, Dundee Rep, Nov 6. Tickets normally £7 to £8.75. Tel 01382 223330

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POPULAR MUSIC: Johnny Mathis, Totó La Momposina and Celina González, and Nervous

Misty in the Fifties

González, Cuba's courted version of the exiled Celia Cruz

After a stark solo set dominated by insistent motifs played on the coarse-toned *gaita* flute and a battery of drums and percussion instruments, La Momposina came close to being upstaged in the second half. Gliding onto the stage for her guest spot, González stoked up an unashamedly melodramatic selection of Cuban son, that compelling offshoot of Spanish romanticism set to an Afro pulse.

Though she cannot rival Cruz for sheer physical presence, her stark, declaratory voice does not lack for power. Her new album *La Roca Cosecha* (Rich Harvest) betrays few signs of age or fatigue. In the space of a few minutes the venue was transformed into a replica of a frenzied Havana dance hall.

CLIVE DAVIS

AN ENTERPRISING *Big Issue* seller outside the Borderline was shouting "Read all about it - Nervous, the new Oasis." Indeed, the current issue of the magazine does carry an article wondering if this eight-piece band from Camden are the natural successors to the lovely, cuddly Gallagher brothers.

Thankfully they are not. In any case the old Oasis, it seems, are not going away, if only for reasons of filthy lucre, and Nervous are a long way from Britpop. In fact the band look more towards America for their influences. A rash of fine notices for their debut album, *Son of the Great Outdoors*, tried to pigeonhole their warm rhythms. Such names as Van Morrison, Crowded House and the Waterboys were thrown about as influences. One reviewer, in his desperation to hang a label on the band, called them "Celtic/country/rock fusion-

ers", which tells you everything but nothing.

Their greatest assets are the strength of the material written by frontman Justin Travis, and the sheer versatility of their playing. Travis has a gritty, rootsy voice equally at ease on the melodic acoustic-based *Father's Son* or the rocking *Me I'm Different*. His melodies ramble seductively around country, folk and rock idioms while his lyrics are

enlivened by such lines as "I'm blinded by beauty, aesthetics is my middle name". The band augment the usual guitars, keyboards and drums with mandolins, pedal steel, clarinet and harp, energetic and laid-back in equal doses, authentic and uncontrived.

Engagingly Nervous still amble on stage like a bunch of roadies rather than the stars of the show. But catch them quick: when they graduate to the big stadiums it won't sound quite the same.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

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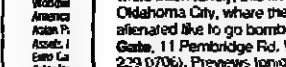


Simon Callow and company revel in a cheerful updating of Ben Jonson's *The Alchemist*

CHOICE 1

ENO stages Britten's opera. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

VENUE: Tonight at the Coliseum



Frank Finlay plays the title role in Ronald Harwood's *The Handyman*

CHOICE 2

Frank Finlay plays the title role in Ronald Harwood's *The Handyman*

VENUE: In preview at the Minerva, Chichester

THEATRE 1

Simon Callow and company revel in a cheerful updating of Ben Jonson's *The Alchemist*

THEATRE 2

... but a musical delving into the spirit world is only a medium success in Salisbury

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE: Ben Jonson's social satire set in the future; plus a musical bereft of hummable tunes

Broad, brash and farcical

Donald Cooper

Underneath the cast-list in most editions of Ben Jonson's *The Alchemist* you find the words: "Scene: London." The programme for the production at Birmingham Rep is mounting in collaboration with the National Theatre adds: "time, the future." But if you think this means that Jonson's comical pulverising of the bourgeoisie via the pan-solar Internet — as would

The Alchemist Birmingham Rep

probably be the case if the great satirist were writing today — you must think again. It is a more subtly imaginative future to which Bill Alexander and his cast introduce us.

The streets of their London are full of people wearing black plastic, baggy Turkish-style carpets and medieval-looking leather. The house to which Simon Callow's Face and Tim Pigott-Smith's Subtle lure their marks suggests that tomorrow's estate agents will have their work cut out for them. The programme says that William Dudley designed those looming walls, iron doors and looping stairs; but the impression is that some mad blacksmith made scores of cogs, spanners, pipes, radiators, candlesticks and a few instruments of torture, and then squashed them into a sort of black brutalist Gothic Gormenghast chitch.

It is a fascinating sight, and well enough suited to Jonson, who loved the extravagant and took delight in the grotesque. His people are not people as most of his contemporaries observed them, but caricatures, "humours": crazed Anabaptists trying to persuade themselves that they are lawful, a fat knight mentally gormondising on the prospect of gold-mountains and gold-lakes, a dim clerk who believes himself to be the fairy queen's heir. Even so, previous productions of *The Alchemist* have demonstrated that such characters can be played with a certain finesse and the satire acquires a degree of social reality and moral edge. Alexander opts instead for the broad, the brash and, most of the time, the farcical.

Still, it is hard to complain too much when Callow is caught hilariously transmogrifying from a bare-chested

south London lager lout to a bawling Sandhurst blimp, and from there to the alchemist's troglodyte stoker, a Welsh chemist oddly garbed in shimmering black armour and, finally, an ingenuitously Soaps-brother. There are other qualities — danger, maybe — that he might have brought to the role. But he performs with such relish and glee that you catch yourself wishing Jonson had provided him with even more opportunities to play games

with his hair, teeth and accent: Face as Falklands sheep-tycoon, perhaps, or Face as scavenging yeti.

As the less interesting trickster, Pigott-Smith alternates efficiently enough between gormondising and hair-shirted ascetic. Josie Lawrence injects panache and even a little aggression into the role of her partner-in-crime, Doll Common, at one point using her thighs to put a headlock on Subtle. And Geoffrey Freshwater brings an eye-

whirling excitement to the role of Sir Epicure Mammon, who dreams of being fanned by eunuchs and wearing gloves of fish-skin "perfumed with gums of paradise." But before the production reaches the National next month, could someone ensure that the bald patch on his wig doesn't crinkle? That is an absurdity beyond even my powers to defend.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

A slightly vacant possession

Maddie Salisbury Playhouse

wife, and Nick must watch her draped amorously in the landlord's arms. In these peripheral moments it is as if a kraken has swum up from the ocean bed, found the air unfavourable and sunk back.

The show arrives at the Playhouse with good credentials, notably the growing reputation of Stephen Keeling, its composer, although I do hanker for tunes to hum. Fashions change, but this is a

book musical of the old kind — ie, not a Lloyd Webberian *gesamtkunstwerk*, where the instruments never stop. The orchestration in *Maddie* provides an emotional charge to memories of what might have been, the urge to make up for lost time, but the absence of instant melody means that the situations and characters do not become permeated and defined by music.

Some of the scenes Shaun McKenna and Steven Dexter have written fail to work. The group therapy meeting is not only silly but without function. Martin Connor's pro-

duction also allows characters to hang around doing nothing. Just because they are being sung to, or watching from a nearby chair, doesn't mean they can't be made to look involved.

Mark McGann (Nick) runs through a repertoire of droll attitudes, but the Californian actress and singer Summer Rogan gives a thrilling performance, forthright and feisty, in the Maddie sections of her role. In the show's best scene, at a charity party memorably disrupted by her presence, she gives a new meaning to the phrase: "Drinks on the house."

JEREMY KINGSTON

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre returns to London

Hotels, halls, returns only

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For an application form, please contact Jackie Coen at CDA Personnel, Room 1021, Cody Building, DERA Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 6LX. Closing date for receipt of completed applications 4th October 1996.

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CREME DE LA CREME



PA TO CHAIRMAN

£25,000 plus bens

The opportunity has arisen to work for the founder and Chairman of this growing and successful management consultancy. He requires a PA with the intellect and stamina to manage the dynamics of his hectic business commitments. The role involves high level contact with Blue Chip clients and City financiers as well as many special projects and research work. Senior level experience is essential. Ideally of graduate calibre, you will have a knowledge of Word for Windows, Powerpoint and Excel.

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applicants are positively welcomed.

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

KNIGHTSBRIDGE PA

£21,000

This hard-working and personable General Manager is responsible for the UK operations of a large international group. He seeks an experienced PA to support him in this key role.

Your position will involve extensive communication at all levels across the vast organisation, co-ordinating and managing a hectic diary and producing presentations. You will need to have excellent organisational and interpersonal skills, the ability to prioritise your day and a good knowledge of a graphics package. Please call the West End Division.

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applicants are positively welcomed.

0171 287 7788

Angela Mortimer

FASHION W.8.

£18000 + Bonus

Fast, accurate, calm, efficient, flexible? "Eye on the ball", attention to detail, full of initiative with bags of common sense? If you're all of these (and more), the MD of a fashion property would love to meet you. This is a 1-1, involving, fascinating role where the right chemistry is vital. Speedy WP essential. Age 25-35.

BODY SEARCH W.1.

£22000 + Bonus

Two consultants working for a major player in the world of executive search are looking for a secretary. Yes, there can be volume typing but the good news is a real future, free rein to run own projects, delightful bosses and working at senior level in a company which nurtures employee talent. Age 25-30. Good knowledge of W4W, Excel, Powerpoint essential.

PLEASE CALL 0171 373 7779

JIGSAW RECRUITMENT

PA/Office Manager Public Relations up to £17,000

We are a small Public Relations company based in Victoria seeking to replace our PA/Office Manager/Book-keeper who is leaving in October.

Reporting to the Managing Director and working alongside other executive staff, you will be expected to use your own initiative in running the office and helping with PR-related work. You will be an experienced user of W4W and have some book-keeping experience.

Please send your CV to Victoria Fielding at Communicat, 22 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W 0DH.

SPORTING WORLD

Major National Sporting Body governing Britain's most popular summer sport, now needs a senior PA/Sec to assist their Chief Executive. Responsibilities are wide-ranging, requiring both well-honed business and social skills, diplomacy and ability to handle a wide variety of tasks.

To discuss further, please call Eliza Zeill or Christine Cook.

COVENT GARDEN BUREAU
6 MADDOX STREET LONDON W1P 9W
0171 495 8822

Personal Assistants for The Chief Executive and The Financial Director

Chief Executive and Financial Director are looking for Personal Assistants for one of the country's most vibrant and successful business information publishing companies. You will need organisational and administrative skills, shorthand and typing (80-100wpm), computer literacy, numeracy, and above all, an excellent sense of humour. Age 25-30 years, with at least 3 years secretarial experience.

If you think you fit the above criteria please write enclosing a copy of your CV to: Karin Pilkington, Contact Communications Limited, St Giles House, 50 Pall Mall, London, W1Y 4AX. No Agencies.

Legal Secretary

£19,500

Holborn

Articulate & organised, your personality will count for as much as your legal experience for this fast paced, demanding role. Providing full secretarial support to a dynamic lawyer, you'll be rewarded with a vibrant, busy work environment & excellent company benefits.

High audio content.

Please call NICOLA on 0171 430 2531.

115 High Holborn, London WC1.

PA to Finance Director

£18-£20,000

Baker Street

Available with an immediate start, this high profile Temp to Perm position is ideal for a polished & professional PA. Fully utilising your Director level experience you'll co-ordinate diary & travel arrangements, schedule meetings & liaise with senior management on behalf of this prestigious Consultancy Firm. W4W, Lotus & shorthand skills will prove essential.

Please call DANIELLE on 0171 935 7248.

111 Baker Street, London W1.

Senior Secretary

£19,000 + bens

Docklands

Realise your potential in Banking. In this key position you'll provide a comprehensive secretarial service to a busy division. W4W, Excel & shorthand skills will prove invaluable, as will a courteous, efficient approach.

Please call JOANNA on 0171 538 1155.

Ground Floor East, 40 Marsh Wall, London E14.

Team Secretary

£18,000 pro rata + bens

Piccadilly

Not surprisingly these International Property Consultants work from salubrious offices. As part of the team you'll schedule meetings, prepare presentations, transcribe audio, process the admin & liaise with tenants so there's no way you'll be bored!

Please call BEVERLEY or CHRIS on

0171 629 0777. 311 Regent Street,

London W1

Partners Secretary

£18-£20,000 + bens

EC4

This is not your average Secretarial position. Two busy Partners at an eminent firm of chartered accountants need your support. As well as scheduling meetings, co-ordinating diaries & making travel & corporate hospitality arrangements, you'll play a key role in the ongoing development of business opportunities.

Please call LORRAINE or CAITLIN on 0171

606 0011. 12 Grosvenor Court, Bow Lane,

London EC4.

Executive Secretary

£18,000

Hammersmith

Maximise your potential with this superb HR Firm in a Director level position. Offering fantastic promotional opportunities this varied post requires a methodical, personable individual with strong W4W & Lotus skills to provide the HR team with all round admin support. Ideal for those from a personal background.

Please call RENEE on 0181 741 8080.

12 Hammersmith Broadway, London W6

Secretary/PA

£18-£20,000

Victoria

Extremely productive Marketing Department requires a smart, confident PA to join their creative team. You'll have 70wpm audio & copy typing on W4W, PowerPoint & Excel & 80wpm shorthand. Duties include organising events & producing presentations, often to tight deadlines.

Please call CAROLINE or JOANNA on

0171 630 0844. 71-75 Buckingham

Palace Road, London SW1.

PA/Team Secretary

£17,000 + paid O/T

Mr Angel Tube

A great social life & a rewarding role, supporting 7 dynamic young Market Research Executives with project work. You'll have good WP & prioritising skills & thrive in a young, busy environment. Also offers opportunities to get involved on the PR & advertising side.

Please call TERESA on 0171 638 0055.

20 Moorfields High Walk, Moorfields,

London EC2.

Senior Secretary

£18,000

Oxford Street

An established Property Company requires a real team player to produce presentations & reports, minute meetings & be a whizz on W4W. It's a challenge, where your talents will be fully appreciated. Wonderful office!

Please call EMMA on 0171 434 9545.

25 Oxford Street, London W1.

Office
Angels
Recruitment Consultants

BANKING SECRETARY

£18K + EXCELLENT BANKING BENEFITS

Brilliant rates
Excellent opportunities
Never a dull moment
Enviably holiday pay
Friendly consultants
Interesting assignments
Terrific companies
Shorthand Secretaries start now!

A FLAIR FOR FASHION

£14-£15K + Benefits

Do you want to make a break into the fabulous world of fashion? We have the perfect job for you. As a secretary to the Sales Director of this well known fashion retail and design company, you will need 55 wpm audio typing, W4W's and Excel. Call today for an immediate start.

PAN EUROPEAN RECRUITMENT

Fax 0171 734 8501

LET US TEMPT YOU

FOR CITY AND WEST END INTERVIEWS
8 TILL LATE
call 0171 734 8484

Hays Banking Personnel

SECRETARIAL DIVISION

SENIOR SECRETARY

London Bridge

£9.50 Phr+

Leading investment bank urgently requires Senior Secretary to work within expanding department. Strong organisational skills with the ability to cope with the high volume of telephone enquiries. The vacancy would suit proactive and professional types. Experience of Word for Windows, Excel and Powerpoint preferred. Audio and Shorthand knowledge an advantage. Excellent prospects and overtime an option!

City

DTP SECRETARIES

£Excellent

Dynamic marketing department within Global Investment bank requires experienced DTP operators and secretaries to assist with ongoing projects. Need extra hours and able to work associate shifts? Advanced experience in a combination of the following packages are required (Quark, Express, Harvard Graphics, Powerpoint or CorelDraw) Call now to discuss competitive overtime rates.

SENIOR SECRETARY - TEMP TO PERMANENT

City

£9.50 Phr+

Senior secretaries with excellent organisational and communication skills urgently required for a busy Real Estate department in the City's leading financial institutions. Word for Windows, Powerpoint and Excel are the packages urgently needed for these exciting assignments.

SECRETARY/PA - GLOBAL ASSET FINANCE

London Bridge

£9.00 Phr

Looking for long term temporary work? Our client, a leading American Bank is currently seeking a committed and reliable secretary/PA to work in their Global Asset Finance Department. Awaiting four lively consultants you need evidence of having worked in a busy prevarious environment. This ongoing assignment could potentially go permanent. A perfect opportunity to prove yourself. Experience of Excel and Word for Windows required.

41/42 London Wall, London EC2M 5TB.

Tel: 0171 638 7003. Fax: 0171 628 5057

POWERPOINT OPERATIONS
Combine your technical and creative talents in short and long term bookings with this top London company. Excellent rates of pay up to £11 P.H. If you have a minimum of 6 months' presentation exp and advanced knowledge of powerpoint. Call Rachel Beard at Tate Appointments on 0171 498 9425 NOW!

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME

PERSONNEL

£25,000 plus bens

City Investment bank

require an energetic

Benefits & Training

Administrator. You

will be responsible for

co-ordinating the

administration of the

company's benefits

programmes and

training initiatives and

experience in this field

is ESSENTIAL. You

will have first class IT

skills, excellent time

management and

flexibility in working

hours. Aged 24-40.

Please call Susan

Weaver on

0171 390 7000 or fax

0171 390 2997.

Croc Corhill

Rec Costs

PRODUCTION CREME

Production specialist for leading

brand/identity designers. Assist with

research, sourcing, creating artwork,

designing with printers, suppliers & clients.

A good working knowledge of the

production process is essential. You

will have first class IT skills, excellent time

management and flexibility in working

hours. Aged 24-40. Please call Susan

Weaver on 0171 390 7000 or fax 0171 390 2997.

Croc Corhill Rec Costs



MAINE-TUCKER

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA/OFFICE MANAGER!

£23 27K + MED + PRP

MAINE-TUCKER is a leading recruitment consultancy with a reputation for placing top talent in the City and West End. We are currently looking for a PA/Office Manager for a leading financial institution. The role involves managing the office, handling correspondence, and supporting the senior management team. The successful candidate will have a minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar role and will be a member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries (CIS). We offer a competitive salary of £23,270 per annum plus medical and pension. If you are interested, please send your CV to: Elaine Tucker, 18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6JP. Telephone: 0171 734 7341. Fax: 0171 734 7340.

MAINE-TUCKER

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

HR PA

£21K + BONUS + FREE MEALS

MAINE-TUCKER is a leading recruitment consultancy with a reputation for placing top talent in the City and West End. We are currently looking for an HR PA for a leading financial institution. The role involves managing the HR department, handling correspondence, and supporting the senior management team. The successful candidate will have a minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar role and will be a member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries (CIS). We offer a competitive salary of £21,000 per annum plus bonus and free meals. If you are interested, please send your CV to: Elaine Tucker, 18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6JP. Telephone: 0171 734 7341. Fax: 0171 734 7340.

MAINE-TUCKER

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

MATERNITY CONTRACT

PA - £22-25K (PRO-RATA)

MAINE-TUCKER is a leading recruitment consultancy with a reputation for placing top talent in the City and West End. We are currently looking for a Maternity Contract PA for a leading financial institution. The role involves managing the office, handling correspondence, and supporting the senior management team. The successful candidate will have a minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar role and will be a member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries (CIS). We offer a competitive salary of £22,000-£25,000 per annum pro-rata. If you are interested, please send your CV to: Elaine Tucker, 18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6JP. Telephone: 0171 734 7341. Fax: 0171 734 7340.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6JP.

Telephone: 0171 734 7341. Fax: 0171 734 7340.

Administrative Assistant

Central London £13,000 to £14,000

One year fixed term contract (pro-rata)

The British Red Cross cares for people in crisis everywhere -

meeting the needs of vulnerable people in times of emergency. An opportunity has arisen for an Administrative Assistant within the International Finance Department to provide administrative and secretarial support to a team of three. This is a part-time post (21 hours) to be worked flexibly over 3 days.

Your duties will include compiling monthly and quarterly reports, maintaining the grants database, compiling spreadsheets, typing letters, organising diaries and dealing with telephone enquiries.

It is essential that you are numerate, have at least one year's office work experience, have word processing skills (to include Word for Windows, with a minimum of 45 words a minute), experience of spreadsheets, have good communication skills and are able to work on your own initiative. Database skills would be desirable.

Please write enclosing a full cv and quoting reference JT/0002 to: Personnel Division, British Red Cross, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7HJ. Closing date: 2 October 1996.

As a charity we are only able to reply to those selected for interview. If you do not hear from us within 8 weeks we regret that your application has not been successful.



British Red Cross

Caring for people in Crisis

مكتبة من الأصل

CREME DE LA CREME

SENIOR SECRETARY Temp to Perm £18,000

Based in fantastic offices in the City you will provide comprehensive secretarial support to a Director and his team of two traders. Shorthand and audio (70/100) are essential as is previous experience at a senior level. This job will suit you if you enjoy the traditional role of the secretary. Please call Helen Boothland on 0171 447 5514

FUNKY FACILITIES ASSISTANT £14,000-16,000

Are you a graduate with 2 years facilities experience? Are you looking for responsibility within this field? Do you want to work with creative, video people in a company that wants you to grow with them? If so, please call Freya Richards on 0171 447 5517.

TEMPS - TEMPS - TEMPS

If you have a typing speed of 60 wpm, good knowledge of Word for Windows, Excel, Powerpoint and are looking to temp, then please call Monique Cooke on 0171 447 5553

A Division of Graduate Appointments

SECRETARIAL & TEMPORARY appointments

0171 379 0333

Fax: 0171 379 0113

76 Langley Street
London WC2H 9JA

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

£18 - 20,000 + Bens

3 Secretaries/Administrators with superb organisational skills required each to support a Fund Manager. Must be well educated/graduate class, ambitious and focused. Excellent opportunities within this high profile Co. Based Covent Garden.

Call Emily Aldrich.

ADMINISTRATOR/ SECRETARY

£17,500 + Bank Bens

Providing full admin support to busy IT Dept with this top blue-chip Co. based in EC4. Involved in education/graduate class, database, systems etc. Fantastic chance for IT enthusiast!

Typing 50wpm.
Call Sarah Turnbull.

PERSONNEL SECRETARY

£17,500 + Bens EC4

Working for the Director of an IT Recruitment in this blue-chip Co. A busy, fast moving role involving recruitment campaigns and events. Potential to develop a personnel role. Exp sec with proven admin. org & strong IT skills etc.

Call Emma Marks.

PA to CHIEF EXECUTIVE

£25,000 + Great Bens

Total involvement in a busy and challenging role for top broking firm in the City. 50% secretarial - 50% admin. Trading floor experience and good skills essential including shorthand. Based EC3.

Call Emma Marks.

Tel: 0171 588 8999

Aldrich & Company

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Fax: 0171 588 8996

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Scale 6 - SO1 - £15,375 - £18,180

Are you calm in a crisis? Can you be both well organised and yet remain flexible? If so, you are just what we need!

Our Chief Executive is looking for a new Personal Assistant who will also provide a confidential secretarial service, carry out research and special projects and occasionally assist with the work of the department.

Our ideal candidate will be self-motivated, possess excellent communication and organisational skills, have at least two years previous Personal Assistant and secretarial experience at Senior Manager level and be comfortable working as part of a team.

Applicants must be proficient in

shorthand and typing and a knowledge of Word would be an advantage.

For further details and an application form, please contact: Mrs. Iris McCanna, Chief Executive's Department, Rockford District Council, Council Offices, South Street, Rockford, Essex. SS4 1BW. Telephone: (01702) 546366 extension 3000.

The closing date for applications is Friday 4th October 1996.

Interviews will be held on Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th October 1996.

Rockford District Council operates a no smoking policy.

Management Opportunity
City
Up to \$45,000 package

Crone Corkill, an innovative leader in the field of secretarial recruitment has an exciting opportunity for a Manager. With a reputation for excellence and a strong company culture, our goal has always been to be the best and our commitment to clients, candidates and staff is second to none.

With an annual turnover of c.£10 million, the company is keenly positioned for growth. The successful candidate will have the flair and vision to increase market share in one of our key business areas and demonstrate strong, interpersonal skills which are integral in managing a sales team. A proven track record in both sales and management is essential.

- Managing and motivating an established and successful team of consultants, ensuring targets are met and individual career paths identified
- Setting and monitoring divisional targets and budgets
- Exploring new business opportunities with a clear commercial eye
- Maintaining and developing our exceptional level of service

If you think you have the skills and experience we need and would like to join a company where individual contribution and success are always recognised and well rewarded, then please send your curriculum vitae to:

Jessica Myers, Human Resources Director,
Crone Corkill, 29 St. Street, London EC2M 2PS.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

WEST END TEMPS

Secretaries and receptionists

- Top hourly rates, loyalty bonus and paid bank holidays.
- Cross training onto the latest systems.

- Immediate short and long term assignments; matched to your individual experience and skills.

For more information and friendly advice please telephone Emma, Jane, Sophie and Jo on 0171 499 8070.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA to Managing Director

Required for Private PLC based in Richmond. Early 20s. Well spoken. Salary £18,000 p.a. plus bonus.

Please fax CV to 0171 409 1207.

PA FOR PROPERTY COMPANY

Highly motivated, registered member of the Property Institute. Excellent knowledge of W4W and Excel. Excellent communication skills and through knowledge of W4W and Excel. Excellent knowledge of W4W and Excel. Excellent knowledge of W4W and Excel.

SECRETARY

Mayfair, W1

for a busy small US management firm. Type 65 wpm + familiarity with Word Perfect 6.0 or 6.1 required. £7-9.5-10. Non-smoker. Salary negotiable.

Please send CV to: Gudeon & Ferrell, 19/20 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9FD.

MEDICAL SECRETARIES

Supervisor for Receptionists

For complementary Health Club. Receptionist. Previous experience essential. Ability to train staff. Hold a team. Must be diplomatic, efficient, well spoken, good appearance. CV to: Anna O'Brien, The Health Club, 7 Park Crescent, W1N 3HE.

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

With excellent and good organisation you will enjoy working for a well-established Harley Street General Practitioner. Excellent opportunity to develop your skills. Salary negotiable. Super bonus during the year. Please telephone 0171 498 1048.

VARIETY IS THE KEY... OUTSTANDING CHOICE TO 25K+

25K+ - ENTREPRENEUR - Outstanding, polished, organised, and motivated. PA/Sec sought for very successful UK with wide-ranging business interests. 25K+ - STRIKE 9-20 - Pre-qualified. W. had on-site high calibre PA/Sec. who enjoys typing presentations. Fantastic benefits/office/leisure. 22K+ - FAVORABLE PERSONALITY - Your charm, initiative and organisational ability will be stretched as you deal with the rich & famous. Long useful, 70h, 18K+ - FAVORABLE - Fantastic opp for bubbly, organised, flexible, bright, energetic, reliable PA/Sec. 20K+ - OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH - 1 market. Friendly, works fast Sec. with multi-tasking attitude. Lots of involvement/learning. 18K+ - FAVORABLE - Share-shilly Sec who enjoys contact & problem solving. 15K+ - BUILDING DREAM - 1 year's exp. 100% ALSO - OUR TOP TEMPS EARN UP TO £10.50

KNIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES

0171 468 0400

LOOKING FOR A CAREER MOVE?

Have you worked in HR or Training?

TRAINING ADMINISTRATOR (Berkshire)

£25K neg. + excellent benefits

This dynamic international organisation seeks a Training Administrator for its T&D Manager. With this development opportunity this will involve well beyond an administrative role. Initially a 12 month contract but possible permanent. Candidates will require:

- clearly degree educated
- good business awareness
- fast moving/energy/knowledge based
- experience for T&D
- advanced computer literacy
- experience of HR or Training company background

Please fax your CV in the first instance to: Fairs 0181 - 847 5200 Tel: 0181 - 848 5515

Janette Tugger & Associates

Human Resource Management Consultants

BILINGUAL SECRETARY

PUBLIC RELATIONS

£17-£18,000 + PRP + BONUS

Our City PR company seeks a Secretary, age 23-28, who is fluent in German or Italian. You will be involved in the organisation of press conferences, booking venues, liaising with journalists, preparing press packs and typing press releases, as well as extensive travel arrangements. W4W and 60 wpm typing essential. An interest in PR or the City desirable. Please call Gwen or fax CV to:

Tel: 0171 491 7252 Fax: 0171 491 8887

Rainbow House, 18 South Molton Street, London W1Y 1DF

MAYFAIR PROPERTY COMPANY - TO £16,000 AAE

Property investment company based in W1 requiring self-motivated secretary for varied duties in a busy friendly non-smoking office. Must be adaptable with excellent telephone manner, good audio skills and fully trained on Wordperfect 6.1 for windows. Ideally mid 20's and with a minimum of two years experience.

Please reply enclosing CV to: Christine Brooker, 2 Denbury Street, London W1Y 5LH

No Agencies Please

MEDIA PA

£21,000

This charismatic managing director needs your support to create a new media company within a large successful international organisation. You will locate offices, and recruit staff as you form a lasting and rewarding working relationship with your boss. 50wpm. Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA IN HR

£21,000

An opportunity to join the human resources team of this leading city organisation. An interest in personnel will allow you to follow through on your own projects within a wide range of personnel related issues. 50wpm typing. Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

MARKETING PA

to £23,000

+ 23 days holidays, share scheme, bonus and pension. West end based fund managers' would like to meet a capable secretary to organise their Marketing Director. 90/55, audio and Windows experience. Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CITY PA

£24,000

This Executive Director is looking for someone who enjoys the responsibility of special projects and organising top level meetings. In addition you will deal with confidential issues, corporate communications and personal work. 50wpm shorthand. Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

EXECUTIVE PA

£20,000 + benefits

A rare opportunity to join this well known international company at the highest level as a true right hand person. The right person will have the confidence to make decisions, take responsibility and will be an excellent organiser.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

A True PA

c£22,000

Mayfair

A fabulous opportunity has arisen for an exceptional PA to be somebody's right-hand person. Organise international travel, liaise worldwide as well as foresee all eventualities from this cosmopolitan office. Good education, excellent secretarial and interpersonal skills required. Looking for a challenging role with a difference? Call Susanna Hargreaves on 0171-434 4512.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Executive PA

Hayes

£24,000 + Bonus + OT

Dynamic international IT group seeks a dedicated senior level PA with 5 years Board level experience for their top Director. This is a demanding role requiring a proactive person who likes being a step ahead of a high profile man. If you are a car owner, A-level educated, have a sound cv, skills 90/60/ Microsoft/Powerpoint aged 28-35 then please call Elizabeth Wood on 0171-434 4512

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Head Hunting?

£24,000 Package

West End

Charismatic Partner of blue chip firm needs a socially poised, top level secretary to assist him with his varied and fascinating work. He needs someone with excellent interpersonal skills, initiative and the ability to work without constant supervision. Fast typing, computer literacy and shorthand essential. City experience an advantage. If you enjoy working with kindred spirits in a civilised environment please call Elizabeth Wood on 0171-434 4512

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Canary Wharf

Investment Banking

£30,000 package

We have a number of opportunities working at Senior level for this highly successful financial institution. Your day will vary from organising client entertainment and travel arrangements to utilising your secretarial skills to produce first class presentations. You will be a hardworking team player with confidence, charm and flexibility. Financial experience. W4W/60wpm. Age 20-35. Please call Amanda Chesson on 0171-390 7000.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Register Tonight

in the City

5.30pm - 8.30pm

As advertised last week, Crone Corkill City Permanent division are open late tonight to interview candidates who want to register but are unable to do so during working hours. We have lots of exciting opportunities for all levels of secretaries - so call now if you would like an appointment for this evening. Telephone: 0171 390 7000

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

SHEILA CHILDS RECRUITMENT

£23,000 Executive PA with good French for a very pleasant Managing Director whose office is the hub of an extremely busy nationwide group. The high profile role calls for the very best organisational and administrative skills. £22,000 PA to the European Banking Director in stunning West End office. Skills of 80/80 together with good spoken French and French.

£20,000 Young stylish PA blessed with common sense, a cheerful spirit, and excellent administrative abilities. Able to work on our initiative and with the possibility of some overseas travel.

4 Ganton Street, London W1
Telephone: 0171 437 3111 Fax: 0171 437 4050

FIRST CREME

PERSONAL ASSISTANT/SECRETARY

urgently required for M.D. and Personnel Manager.

Busy, varied position involving personnel and recruitment. Must be a good communicator, smart, well spoken and adaptable. Admin and W4W 6.5 Ex. Age 21+. Hrs 9-6 Mon-Fri. Salary £13,000.

Please send CV to: Optima, 128 Finchley Road, London NW3 5HT or fax us on: 0171 431 6708.

SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR

Lively, young busy Property Company require confident Secretary who has experience on administrative tasks in a good manner and has of common sense. Salary £13,500.

Please send cv to:
Mandy Hodgkinson, PML Limited, 146 Regents Park Road, London NW1 0DX.
Tel: 0171 586 9881/Fax: 0171 586 9204

RECEPTION SELECTION

Designers based in Primrose Hill seek intelligent and lively person for reception post with varied duties. Knowledge of languages useful though not essential. Salary negotiable. Apply: Woodbridge P.C. Alford, Leamington.

Please send CV for the attention of Patricia Herbert, John Herbert Partnership, 5 Berkeley Road, Primrose Hill, London. NW1 5YR

RECEPTION/ADMIN SECRETARY

NO AGENCIES

£18,000 + Bens - Exclusive City based company requires experienced, enthusiastic Receptionist with proven track record. Salary £18,000 + Bens. 9-5.30. Please call: 0171 434 4512

POLISHED top level receptionist with proven track record. Salary £18,000 + Bens. 9-5.30. Please call: 0171 434 4512

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME

ADMINISTRATOR

Knightsbridge

We need help for our small, showroom asp. You are an efficient sec/pa, self-motivated, well educated and computer literate. You will have a sense of humour, be interested in furniture and design, and be seeking a challenging job with potential. £18,000 plus according to experience.

Fax CV to PETER DUDGEON LTD
Brompton Place Knightsbridge SW3 1QE
0171 589 1910

ADMIN ASSISTANT

We are a Piccadilly Business Centre requiring an efficient office. We need a bright, unflappable person with good typing and audio skills to act as our client's secretary and assist our Centre Manager. You must be well educated, of smart appearance and keen to join in with our small team in providing an excellent service to our clients. For further information please telephone 0171 917 2793.

0171 307 1000 Gail Davies
0171 436 9414 (fax)

SUPER SECRETARIES

CHARITY - c£15,000, casting Appeals Manager seeks enthusiastic, energetic and self-motivated person to give him secretarial and admin support. Would suit team player who enjoys variety and involvement. 50 wpm typing. Please call 0171 287 3212 Business by Two Ben Cos.

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Surprises in store with new look to St Pierre

Demolishing an absolutely fabulous theory

A good memory is sometimes a curse, especially when you watch a lot of television. For the first five minutes of last night's terrific *Timewatch: The History of a Mystery* (BBC2), I was squirming and muttering and blowing steam out of my ears. Didn't they remember *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail*? "Rennes-le-Château has been done!" I said, amazed. Surely everyone remembers that historical bloke with the beard, who kept saying "Rennes-le-Château" and "Et in Arcadia ego" with such resonance and conviction? It was a *Chronicle* in the 1970s. The mystery of Rennes-le-Château in France all boiled down to Knights Templar and secret Rosicrucians and Jean Cocteau, and Joseph of Arimathea. Good grief, hand me that Poussin painting, and I'll draw you a strangely convincing pentacle on it.

If this sounds like raving, I'm sorry, but the story of Rennes-le-Château tends to affect people like this, they get carried away. Which was why last night's highly sceptical *Timewatch* was so worthwhile. Henry Lincoln's old *Chronicle* programmes and *Holy Blood* book were not ignored, not at all. But another big-buck book on Rennes is being published - *The Tomb of God* - which takes Lincoln's evidence and reinterprets it, drawing new lines on maps and pictures and tilting them at different angles, all to prove (wait for it) that Jesus Christ died a natural death in France. And over at *Timewatch*, something snapped. "This time you've gone too far!" they said. "Stand back, a history unit is coming through!"

You couldn't help feeling sorry for the two authors of this new book. Anonymous jeans-wearers with knapsacks, they were considerably less charismatic than Henry Lincoln, and the only thing interesting about them was the £300,000 they'd made. Filmed in long-shot, they studied maps in the French countryside, and pointed at hills. Poor pals. Little did they know, *Timewatch* was setting out to show that the cabalistic "mystery" of Rennes was based on 20th-century fabrications, compounded by bad historical method. Brains behind the scam was the man Lincoln famously tracked down - the so-called "last of the Merovingians". Alas, the royal genealogy was forged (copied from a children's magazine) and this con-man's real ancestor was a 16th-century walnut-grower.

Demolishing the credibility of the new book was a simple matter. "The original parchments, have you seen them?" asked *Timewatch*. "No, no body has," said the Meek Jeaned Ones. Cut to a French historian who knows the whole story of the

forger, who holds up bits of paper. "This is the original," he says. Historical method usually involves checking things, you see, yet key things in the Rennes-le-Château story seem to have passed unchecked for years. Did the priest at Rennes really travel to Paris in 1900, and collect a copy of the Poussin painting (to draw lines on it)? Everybody says he did, but when the Louvre records were finally consulted, the answer was "Non". Have you checked that? asked *Timewatch*. "We have not checked that," came the reply. You can understand why these chaps got obsessed, however. Sixteen years after the Henry Lincoln programme I went to the Royal Academy Poussin exhibition and toyed with a ruler in my pocket. The hunger for symbols and secrets is normal enough - why else did people go bonkers looking for King William's golden harp? What *Timewatch* exposed so neatly last night was bad history, history which makes its own rules, and turns airy supposition into equally airy QEDs by the simplest sleight of hand. The fact that most journalism - and particularly television journalism - does the same thing every day of the week was conveniently ignored.

Still, at least we won't bother with Rennes-le-Château any more. Our young authors refuse to be cowed, maintaining that the conspiracy is bigger than all of us. If there appear to be inconsistencies and omissions, blame those damn Rosicrucians. You can't help admiring their spirit.

Elsewhere it was a funny night for factual television. Channel 4's *Nuremberg* was almost anti-documentary, in a way, because it contained no screaming revisionism. It's a basic thing about historical films, that they must overturn all your former beliefs. "You thought the First World War ran from 1914 to 1918? Wrong!" But this quiet, unflashy *Nuremberg* was utterly straightforward, a little history lesson, well told. The trials fell apart in 1949, it said, because the West didn't want Germany further demoralised. Nazi industrialists were needed back at the factories. The Russians were the true enemy, after all. Finally, Network First: Three

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

Men in a Balloon (ITV) was another non-starter in its way, featuring the Richard Branson round-the-world flight that never took off, a cheerful disaster perfectly narrated by David Stafford, a man with a suitably punctuating style of wit. "Not even all the hot air in Downing Street could get the balloon off the ground," he cracked. Stafford when Branson phoned John Major with his little Libran air-space problem. It was all like that - very entertaining, but going nowhere. While the balloon of the title was unrolled, inflated, deflated and rolled up again (twice), the three men went through similar contortions of ego. Along with Branson and his Swedish balloon engineer came Rory, a public school former pilot with a finely shaped cranium who kept explaining nervously: "I'll be all right because I'm a fully qualified sky-diver!" Very reassuring for the other two, I imagine.

CHOICE

Decisive Weapons (BBC2, 8.00pm)
To claim, as this film does, that the T34 changed the course of history may be an exaggeration but it was the best tank of the Second World War and it deserves to be celebrated. Thanks largely to the T34 the Soviet Union was able to withstand Hitler's onslaught at the crucial battle of Kursk in 1943 and ensure that from then onwards the German Army would be in retreat. The T34 was notable for its wide tracks, which gave it mobility over snow and soft ground, sloped armour and the size of its gun. The bigger German Tiger tanks were no match. Many women and children were among those who worked exhaustingly long hours to produce the T34. Women also drove it. One calls it the queen of tanks. Other weapons featured in the series include the Harrier jump jet, the Bell-Huey helicopter and the longbow.

The Visit (BBC2, 9.00pm)
Desmond Wilcox has tracked down more stories of great personal courage and persuaded those involved to come on television to talk about it. The Handel family is, tragically, a perfect Wilcox subject. Blood given to Rebecca Handel to help with the birth of her daughter, Bonnie, turned out to be contaminated. Rebecca, David, her husband, and Bonnie all contracted HIV. When the film opens Rebecca and Bonnie have died and David, now living in Canada, is mortally ill. This leaves Joshua, the 16-year-old son, who is free of HIV but soon to be orphaned. The stigma attached to HIV and the Handel's to keep it secret, much to their distress. The programme includes interviews with Rebecca and Bonnie, given to Esther Rantzen, aka Mrs Wilcox, just before their death.

Great Railway Journeys (BBC2, 9.30pm)
An African-American professor at Harvard, Henry Louis Gates Jr, travels through Zimbabwe, Zambia and Tanzania in search of his roots. He tells his family, determined to inspire them with the importance of his mission. But his white wife seems quietly unimpressed and his teenage daughters cannot wait to get home, by which they do not mean Africa. Refusing to be discouraged, Gates ingratiates himself with the locals, lauds the strength of African culture and denounces slavery and colonialism. But even he has finally to admit that the discovery of roots involves a bit of wishful thinking. Train buffs are warned that the railways are incidental, merely a means of getting from A to B. The train only features when it is blocked by a derailment, forcing the Gates family, plus baggage, to walk a mile in 100F heat to pick up another one.

Spin (Channel 4, midnight)
Brian Springer, a film-maker from New York, discovered that by putting a satellite dish on his roof he could pick up television footage before it is packaged for transmission. During the presidential campaign of 1992 he recorded some 500 hours of unseen material, much of it from the Larry King chat show. Among those caught off-guard were candidates George Bush, Bill Robertson, Bill Clinton and Ross Perot. Disappointingly, perhaps, no big gaffes emerged. But the loathing of the far-right Republican comes across strongly to the fore and all the presidential hopefuls are shown being coached by their advisers on how to put a favourable spin on awkward questions. The programme incidentally emphasises the importance of the chat show in American elections. Peter Waymark

12.30-6.00 The Learning Zone

6.00am GMTV (95/7955)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (9) (4308988)
9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (3637888)
10.00 The Time... the Place (9) (2500437)
10.35 This Morning (9) (2500437)
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12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (2109633)
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5.10 Wheel of Fortune (9) (4124980)
5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (730963)
6.00 Home and Away (9) (Teletext) (9) (946586)
6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (438470)
7.00 Wheel of Fortune hosted by Nicky Campbell (Teletext) (9) (5031)
7.30 Coronation Street. Tricia has to do some last talking to dig herself out of a hole and the uneasy union between the McDonaids is taking its toll on Jim (Teletext) (499)
8.00 The Bill Special. In this hour-long edition, the results of McCann and Ackland's sergeant exams are revealed and a celebration at Sun Hill looks on the cards (Teletext) (3789)

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7.00-7.30 The Really Helpful Programme (5031)
10.45-11.45 Top Spot (491586)

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1.25-1.55 Quins (9708550)
1.55 Home and Away (27941845)
2.25 Vanessa (97710437)
2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (1658505)
3.10-3.40 Home and Away (4124980)
6.00 Westcountry Live (9012)
7.00-7.30 Wheel of Fortune (5031)
10.45 A Season in the Sun (491586)
11.45 The Westcountry Match. Action from the second round of the Coca-Cola Cup (987012)

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1.55 A Country Practice (32453505)
2.20 Vanessa (97711166)
2.50-3.20 Yan Can Cook - the Best of China (7822234)
3.10-3.40 Home and Away (4124980)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (963)
6.30 Ridgelines (215)
7.00-7.30 Wheel of Fortune (5031)
10.45 The Pier (379470)
11.15 The Meridian Match (440418)
12.05am Good Advice (6660722)

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2.20 Vanessa (97711166)
2.50-3.20 Yan Can Cook - the Best of China (7822234)
3.10-3.40 Home and Away (4124980)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (963)
6.30 Ridgelines (215)
7.00-7.30 Wheel of Fortune (5031)
10.45 The Pier (379470)
11.15 The Meridian Match (440418)
12.05am Good Advice (6660722)

As HTV West except:
12.55 Quins (2194654)
1.25 Home and Away (98051857)
1.55 A Country Practice (32453505)
2.20 Vanessa (97711166)
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11.15 The Meridian Match (440418)
12.05am Good Advice (6660722)

6.00am Business Breakfast (47586)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (78857)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (8424673)
9.20 Style Challenge (9) (5956227) 9.45 Killy (9) (113673) 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (9) (47302) 11.00 News (Ceefax) (4428505) 11.05 Son of the Morning Star (9) (Ceefax) (5991979)
12.40pm Blooming Lovely (9) (1999895)
12.50 Holiday Outings (1999895)
1.00 News and weather (Ceefax) (71944)
1.30 Regional News (45171383)
1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (9) (32449302)
2.00 Call My Bluff (9) (300496) 2.30 Turnabout (9) (1643673) 3.00 A Week in the Country (9) (5854)
3.30 Arts in Your Pants (9) (8934147) 3.50 ChuckleVision (9) (914383)
4.10 NEW Get Your Own Back. Children turn the tables on an assortment of adults (Ceefax) (9) (731944)
4.35 Cartoon Critics (Ceefax) (9) (4657050) 5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (7747166) 5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (9) (2450925)
5.35 Neighbours (9) (Ceefax) (9) (281012) 6.00 News and weather (Ceefax) (985)
6.30 Regional News unedited (147)
7.00 Small Talk. Adults unravel the minds of nine children and discover who knows best (Ceefax) (8073)
7.30 Tomorrow's World. Featuring a disturbing new analysis of how environmental factors to help the terminally ill to commit suicide (Ceefax) (9) (401)
8.00 Big Cat Diary. Simon King and Jonathan Scott's second film from Kenya's Masai Mara finds them tracking the majestic animals after dark (Ceefax) (9) (6333)
8.30 Next of Kin. Meggie and Andrew have been looking after their grandchildren for 12 hours and already one of them is in casualty (9) (Ceefax) (9) (5418)
9.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats (Ceefax) (100895)
9.05 News, regional news and weather (Ceefax) (584873)
9.35 The Thin Blue Line. Fowler plans a camping trip for young offenders, while DI Ginn favours giving them a short sharp shock (9) (Ceefax) (9) (16215)
10.05 QED: Pride and Prejudice. A look at how psychologists help patients with facial disfigurements to come to terms with the way they look (Ceefax) (9) (807383)
10.35 International Come Dancing. Rosemary Ford and Charles Nowe introduce Europe's top formation team, Bremerhaven from Germany, as they compete against the United Kingdom, the holders of the current Come Dancing title (Ceefax) (9) (573050)
11.30 FILM: Ruby Cairo (1992) with Andie MacDowell and Liam Neeson. A woman's life is turned upside down when her husband is killed in a plane crash in Mexico. Faced with unpaid bills and a crippling mortgage, she flies out to Mexico to bury him, where a further shock awaits her. Graeme Clifford directs (529855)
1.15am Weather (228042)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, numbers which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+™, "Pluscode"™ and Video Programme are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY ONE
7.00am On the Hour (4073) 9.00 Press Your Luck (794234) 9.30 Love Connection (900025) 9.45 Open House (1510565) 10.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 11.30 The Simpsons (21876) 11.55 Annual Preview (17760) 12.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 12.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 1.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 1.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 1.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 2.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 2.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 2.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 3.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 3.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 3.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 4.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 4.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 4.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 5.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 5.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 5.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 6.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 6.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 6.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 7.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 7.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 7.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 8.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 8.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 8.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 9.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 9.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 9.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 10.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 10.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 10.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 11.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 11.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 11.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 12.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 12.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 12.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 1.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 1.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 1.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 2.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 2.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 2.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 3.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 3.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 3.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 4.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 4.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 4.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 5.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 5.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 5.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 6.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 6.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 6.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 7.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 7.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 7.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 8.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 8.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 8.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 9.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 9.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 9.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 10.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 10.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 10.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 11.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 11.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 11.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 12.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 12.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 12.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 1.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 1.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 1.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 2.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 2.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 2.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 3.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 3.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 3.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 4.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 4.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 4.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 5.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 5.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 5.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 6.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 6.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 6.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 7.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 7.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 7.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 8.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 8.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 8.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 9.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 9.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 9.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 10.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 10.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 10.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 11.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 11.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 11.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 12.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 12.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 12.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 1.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 1.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 1.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 2.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 2.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 2.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 3.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 3.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 3.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 4.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 4.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 4.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 5.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 5.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 5.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 6.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 6.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 6.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 7.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 7.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 7.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 8.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 8.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 8.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 9.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 9.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 9.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 10.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 10.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 10.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 11.00 Jeopardy! (949789) 11.30 Jeopardy! (949789) 11.55 Jeopardy! (949789) 12.0



GOLF 39

Europe team in relaxed mood for Solheim Cup

SPORT

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18 1996

RUGBY UNION 42

Voyle earns vote as Wales seek greater mobility



New team wins bank support

Stewart seals £25m deal to fuel Hill chase

BY OLIVER HOLT

DOWN by the riverside, about 50 yards from the spot in Pudding Lane where the Great Fire of London started in 1666, Jackie Stewart let a new flame take hold yesterday. He stoked the embers by announcing a lucrative first sponsorship deal for his fledgling grand-prix team, then fanned them into roaring life by saying that he wanted Damon Hill in with him at the start of his brave new venture.



Stewart wants Hill as his No 1 driver when the team takes its place on the Formula One grid next season

Stewart banished rumours that he might have to delay entering the sport until 1998 because of a lack of funds when he revealed that he had secured a five-year sponsorship deal with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) worth a total of £25 million, a modest sum by today's standards but still a useful foundation.

Then he insisted that, although Stewart Grand Prix might not be in a position to win races in their debut season next year, he and his son, Paul, the team's managing director, were trying hard to persuade Hill, the world championship leader, to join them when he leaves Williams at the end of this season.

It was a strange place for a Formula One press conference, a large room on the tenth floor of HSBC's world headquarters overlooking Tower Bridge and HMS Belfast, in a building framed by dark glass and dominated by its cavernous atrium. Hill's name, though, is ubiquitous now when any team talks of potential drivers and Stewart was soon enthusing about the qualities of the son of his great rival, Graham Hill.

"It would be wonderful to have Damon," Stewart said. "It would almost be a dream come true for us. One of the reasons is that he will probably be carrying the No 1 with him and, for a new team to have that on the car, would be unique."

"The more important thing, though, is that Damon has tremendous skills and talent. He is mature and well-balanced in my opinion and he knows the workings of a team. Apart from that, I knew his mum and dad rather well."

"I am sure, though, that he has had offers from better-established teams that have turned his head as well as the money and we might not be able to offer him the sort of sums he could command as world champion."

With Benetton apparently out of the running for Hill's signature, it does appear increasingly likely that he will race either for Stewart or the Jordan team, whose coffers have been swelled by sponsorship from Benson and Hedges, next season.

Jordan, who have had a disappointing season by their own upwardly-mobile standards but now possess probably the most powerful engine, from Peugeot, in Formula One, would offer Hill a more realistic chance of consistently challenging for points and podium positions.

With Ralf Schumacher, the younger brother of Michael, likely to be confirmed as one of their drivers on Friday, many feel they are gradually moving into a position to challenge Williams, Ferrari, Benetton and McLaren next year.

Stewart, three times the Formula One world champion, would bring the romance of the name, an exclusive supply of top Ford engines and the thrill of the new. The problem may be that, despite the deal yesterday, they are still well short of their target of raising £25 million a year and, unless they haul in more significant sponsors, Jordan are likely to outbid them.

It is highly unlikely that any decision will be made until the outcome of the drivers' championship, which Hill leads by 13 points from his team-mate, Jacques Villeneuve, with two races to go, is known. The Englishman will clinch it at the Portuguese Grand Prix in Estoril this weekend so long as Villeneuve does not finish the race in a position that brings him four more points than Hill.

Stewart, of course, was concerned solely with next season and the team's prospects for its debut race, the Australian Grand Prix, in Melbourne in mid-March. The team's first Formula One car will be unveiled at the beginning of December and tested soon afterwards.

"We do not expect to run before we can walk or even crawl and we have no illusions about the competitiveness of grand-prix racing," Stewart said. "But we have a good team at our factory at Milton Keynes, we have got the best in technology, we are using a wind tunnel in California and we will have a good aerodynamic package. I hope we will be competitive more quickly than is the norm for new teams."



Tim Henman, left, prepares for a training session with David Lloyd, the Great Britain coach, on No 1 Court at Wimbledon yesterday. Britain play Egypt there in group two of the Davis Cup Euro-African zone, starting on Friday. Photograph: Frank Tewkesbury

Hoddle extends England training

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

ENGLAND have arranged an unprecedented nine-day training camp before the match against Poland at Wembley on Wednesday, October 9. Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, will call his players together at midday on October 1 for intensive preparations leading up to the group two World Cup qualifying tie.

In the past, the squad has gathered on the Saturday before a midweek game. Now, with the FA Carling Premiership temporarily shut down from September 30 to October 12, Hoddle will have much longer with his players before the second match of England's World Cup series. It is an idea that he has advocated since succeeding Terry Venables after Euro 96, yet one which has previously received only lukewarm support from the club managers.

Yesterday, though, it drew a mostly favourable response, with many of them more concerned at the short recovery period after international matches rather than the extended build-up beforehand. Three days after the Poland game, the Premiership resumes in earnest.

"I don't have any hang-ups about Glenn wanting the players a bit earlier," Brian Little, the Aston Villa manager, said. "It is vital that he is able to set the pattern and create the team spirit he wants. The longer he has them together, the better it is for everyone."

"What I'm worried about is getting my lads back in time for our next game. That's where the problem lies. We're getting there but it still needs a bit more thought," Villa had

Gareth Southgate and Mark Draper involved in England's last game in Moldova earlier this month, which they won 3-0. Southgate played a key role, with Draper a non-playing substitute, but they returned from the arduous trip only 48 hours before Villa played Everton.

Charlton's glory — 40
Wilkins returns — 40

"Picking up injuries while on England duty is one of those things," Little said, "but that could just as easily happen while training with your club. It's no worse with England and a lot of the preparations are just talking and rehearsing anyway."

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, lost Jamie

Redknapp, his midfield player, for the early part of this season after he was injured playing for England during Euro 96. "There's not much difference if Glenn wants the players for a few extra days beforehand, there's no great change there," he said.

"But I'd still prefer the England games to be played on Saturdays. Then we should get more time with the players when they get back to us."

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, has consistently campaigned for England to give up their midweek dates and, instead, play on Saturdays. Again, though, he feels the players need longer to recover. "It's of no benefit at all if the club has got a game on the following Tuesday or Wednesday," he said.

John Barnwell, chief execu-

tive of the League Managers' Association (LMA), is due to meet Hoddle and officials from the Football Association later this month. John Carnkin, the LMA secretary, said yesterday: "I think managers are prepared to go to the limit to assist the England team. It's always been a touchy subject but we're moving in the right direction."

However, Tottenham Hotspur are still dismayed by the apparent lack of information from the FA when Teddy Sheringham, their striker, was injured while preparing for the game in Moldova. He tore a thigh muscle during shooting practice and has not played since, which prompted Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, to write a letter of protest to the FA. Sheringham is not likely to play for at least another fortnight.

Manchester City set to offer manager's job to Bassett

BY DAVID MADDOCK AND JOHN GOODBODY

DAVE BASSETT will decide whether to accept an invitation to become Manchester City's sixth manager in as many years over the next 48 hours. Francis Lee, the City chairman, will make a formal request today for permission to approach Bassett, the Crystal Palace manager.

Lee is likely to face little resistance from Ron Noads, the Palace chairman, but Bassett is by no means certain to accept the offer, even though it is understood that the former Wimbledon and Sheffield United manager does not see eye to eye with his employer.

Bassett led Palace to a comfortable 3-1 Nationwide League first division victory over City on Saturday, and was surprised to discover the depths to which City have descended after their relegation from the FA Carling Premiership in May.

At 52, any move is likely to be Bassett's last in football.

Thus he will deliberate — agonise, perhaps — for the next two days before arriving at his decision.

Lee's approach is a calculated risk by a chairman who has already seen one much-publicised attempt to secure a new manager fail when George Graham declined the chance to succeed Alan Ball. A similar response by Bassett will result in huge embarrassment for Lee, who has scoured the country for a big-name replacement.

Should Bassett accept, it is thought likely that Steve Coppell, the Palace director of football, would resume the managerial role he relinquished in 1993.

Nigel Winterburn, the Arsenal and former England defender, faces possible disciplinary action from the Football Association for allegedly making "inflammatory gestures" at disabled Sheffield Wednesday supporters during

the FA Carling Premiership match at Highbury on Monday.

Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said yesterday that he had spoken to Mike Reed, the referee, who had confirmed that he will be mentioning two incidents in his report. "He [Winterburn] is alleged to have made inflammatory gestures after the second and third Arsenal goals [in a 4-1 win]," Double said. "The incidents were seen by the police, who told match officials to deal with it."

Winterburn said: "I do not know what I am supposed to have done. If I did anything that caused offence to anyone it was unintentional. And if I upset anyone I would be the first to apologise."

"I did not make obscene gestures to anyone and I will do all I can to clear my name of such a charge. People who know me will tell you that it simply is not in my nature."

Adams pays penalty but doubts remain

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

PHIL ADAMS, the Bristol lock, became the first professional rugby union player to be fined for foul play by his club yesterday, but an unsatisfactory factory playing incident had an equally unsatisfactory ending — if, indeed, the internal hearing at the Memorial Ground is the ending.

In a case of mistaken identity during the Courage Clubs Championship match between Northampton and Bristol last Saturday, Eben Rollin, the Bristol No 8, was sent off

for stamping on Jon Phillips, the Northampton lock. But television showed at the time that Adams, 33 and a youth development officer with the club, should be fined the equivalent of six match fees. It was the second sending off of his Bristol career.

The prompt action by Bristol is to be applauded but, equally, they should have made known the exact amount of financial punishment inflicted. There is a sliding scale of Bristol salaries and Adams is likely to be in the middle of the range. Whether the punishment

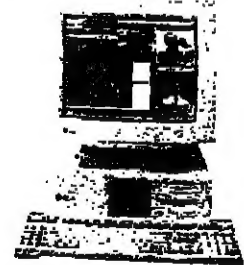
amounts to four figures, as one observer estimated, is not known, but Phillips and Northampton may well find it less than satisfactory.

The Rugby Football Union may also seek clarification over an incident which clearly did the game's image no good. Adams remains free to play against Harlequins on Saturday and Rollin could have the punishment expunged from his record when the Somerset disciplinary committee hears the evidence at its next meeting.

Voyle called up, page 42

MORSE

Closing Open Systems.



The Internet is the most open system of all. When you choose to use it for serious business applications, keeping your data hidden from intruders is vital.

For developing Internet systems, Oracle and Sun are a powerful combination. They have a partnership called 'ICE' - Internet Centric Excellence - which they are using to help businesses use the Web. The task of implementing systems and keeping them safe from prying eyes is ours.

Call to speak to a consultant, and for our Executive Briefing on Internet security.



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Ambulances eight-minute

BY VALERIE CLAPHAM

PHILIP BALS for a 15-minute ambulance service response time to respond to calls within eight minutes could save 330 lives a year. Heart attack victims benefit most from the fast-response service, which will be piloted in the north of England. The service will be piloted in the north of England. The service will be piloted in the north of England. The service will be piloted in the north of England.

The Internet is the most open system of all. When you choose to use it for serious business applications, keeping your data hidden from intruders is vital.

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TV & RADIO
WEATHER
CROSSWORDS

هكذا من الأصل